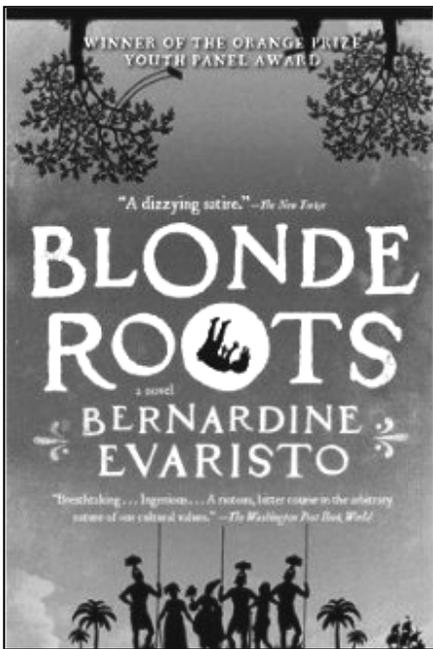




# REWRITING HISTORY

In this day and age, it's hard to find an original idea, especially in Hollywood, where remaking, rebooting, or reimagining old movies is considered "original". However, not all remakes are poorly done. In fact, sometimes the remake furthers the movie franchise's ideas or remarkets it for a younger and fresher audience. Now imagine that you had the power to do a Hollywood remake of your own life? What would you change? What pivotal and life-altering decisions would you reverse or modify? More importantly, who would you cast as your parents?

# HISTORY



You finished reading Bernardine Evaristo's *Blonde Roots*, a novel that asked: "What if the history of the transatlantic slave trade had been reversed, and Africans had enslaved Europeans?" The alternate universe created by Evaristo completely "flips the script" and makes the Europeans the prized jewel of imperialistic African slave traders. It is a very compelling – and creative – historical "what if?"

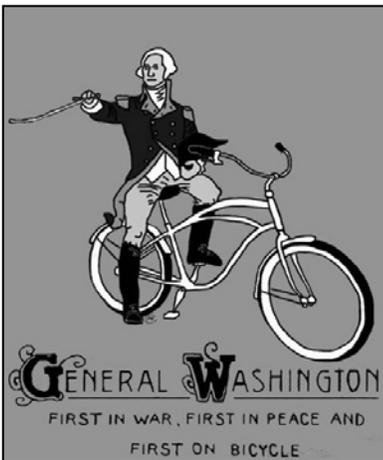
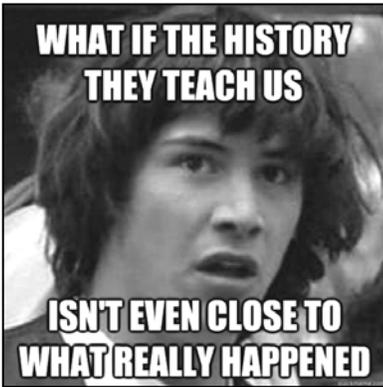
Imagine you were able to remake **history**. How could changing the path of one bullet – or the victory (or defeat) at one battle – alter the course of human history? So many possibilities... so many times in which the history of the world might have been rewritten. Take, for example, this scenario from the historical novel *What If...*:

On June 6, 1944, the world witnessed not just a genuinely decisive military event (D-Day), but, in a sense, a political one that determined which ideological path Western Europe would follow in the next half century. What if the Allied invasion of Normandy had been called off or had failed? What if the famous window (a brief break in the storm battering the continent) had not opened, and Dwight D. Eisenhower had withheld the go-ahead or had gone through with the invasion anyway?

Historian Stephen Ambrose answered this question by suggesting that "the consequences of a failure on D-Day would have been catastrophic... one of the consequences would have been a Communist victory in Europe. A Communist Germany, France, Low Countries, and Italy would have meant no NATO and a possibility of a Communist Great Britain. Relations with the Soviet Union would have been impossibly difficult and dangerous."



One battle in one war. Everything changes.



Students will select one "What If...?" scenario from Dr. Hartnell's list of "events" and write a paper about it. It is to be a MINIMUM of 4 pages and a MAXIMUM of 10 pages, done in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and use standard margins. (No cover page. No clipart.) Your title should act as a newspaper headline that states history's alternate version.

Depending on what scenario you select, you will be responsible for rewriting the **immediate history of the United States** far enough down the road to show the impact of the event. You may begin your paper by restating or rewriting the scenario to make it fit the "flow" of your paper (i.e. if the scenario is one side losing a battle, you can provide an account of the battle and what happened to make them lose). The "new" future is to be BELIEVABLE and make sense (i.e. you must show some logistics and reasoning behind why future events happen the way in which you describe them). It may be written as a reflection of what might have been (phrased in a way as shown by Stephen Ambrose's comments on D-Day), as it would appear in a history textbook, or as a story narrative like Evaristo's. You may use the handouts, notes, books, additional materials from Dr. Hartnell's class, or the Internet to help you create the new possible history of the United States. Further research into the subject may be required.

# REWRITING HISTORY

This is worth \_\_\_\_\_ points and is due \_\_\_\_\_. Your creativity with this assignment, historical "realism" and accuracy, as well as effort will determine your grade. *Garbage in = Garbage out.*





## "What if...?" Scenario Choices

1. *What if...* Christians stopped the Crusades after successfully retaking the city of Jerusalem in 1099?
2. *What if...* Christopher Columbus and his crew were killed by natives in 1492 and never returned to Spain?
3. *What if...* German theologian Martin Luther was executed in 1517 for his 95 *Theses* and the Protestant Reformation never happened?
4. *What if...* the Spanish Armada successfully invaded England in 1588 and overthrew Queen Elizabeth I?
5. *What if...* the *Mayflower* actually landed in Jamestown, Virginia instead of New England in 1620?
6. *What if...* the French did not lose to the British at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759?
7. *What if...* the Patriots didn't run out of ammunition and won the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775?
8. *What if...* the Hessians were sober and ready for General Washington at the Battle of Trenton in 1776?
9. *What if...* Captain Patrick Ferguson of the British Army pulled the trigger and killed George Washington at the Battle of Brandywine in 1777? (*A skilled marksman, Ferguson had Washington in his site but could not bring himself to shoot an unarmed enemy in the back as Washington rode away.*)
10. *What if...* the U.S. accepted an early truce with Britain in February 1781, eight months before the British surrendered at Yorktown? (*The truce would still grant the Americans their independence, but it would also allow foreign troops to remain on whatever lands they held when the document was signed.*)
11. *What if...* the New England states followed up on the Hartford Convention and seceded in 1815?
12. *What if...* General Andrew Jackson was defeated by the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815?
13. *What if...* Napoleon had defeated the British and the Seventh Coalition at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815?
14. *What if...* Richard Lawrence's pistols did not misfire and he successfully assassinated President Andrew Jackson on a street corner in 1835 – less than three years into Jackson's first term?
15. *What if...* the S.O.S. from the Alamo reached its destination in 1836 and the main Texas forces arrived before Mexico's General Santa Anna and his forces got inside?
16. *What if...* William Henry Harrison did not die one month into office in 1841?
17. *What if...* John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859 had been successful?
18. *What if...* Abraham Lincoln lost the Election of 1860 to the South's John C. Breckinridge?
19. *What if...* Union forces crushed the South at the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861?
20. *What if...* President Abraham Lincoln never issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* in 1863?
21. *What if...* "Pickett's Charge" had been successful at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863?
22. *What if...* the Confederacy won the U.S. Civil War?
23. *What if...* President Abraham Lincoln was not assassinated in 1865?
24. *What if...* Union General Ulysses S. Grant had gone with President Lincoln to Ford's Theatre in 1865?
25. *What if...* President Andrew Johnson was impeached and successfully removed from office in 1868?
26. *What if...* the "Compromise of 1877" was never struck and Reconstruction did not end that same year?
27. *What if...* the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 had turned into a full-blown worker's uprising?
28. *What if...* Progressive Teddy Roosevelt defeated Democrat Woodrow Wilson in the Election of 1912?
29. *What if...* Germany won the First Battle of the Marne in 1914?



30. *What if...* Private Henry Tandey, a British soldier, decided not to spare the life of a German soldier (Hitler) during the First Battle of Ypres in 1914? (*As the Germans retreated, a wounded German soldier entered Tandey's line of fire. "I took aim but couldn't shoot a wounded man," Tandey stated, "so I let him go."*)
31. *What if...* the U.S. never joined the Allies during World War I?
32. *What if...* the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was never ratified and Prohibition never began?
33. *What if...* the Stock Market didn't "crash" in 1929?
34. *What if...* Giuseppe Zangara's successfully assassinated President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 – before FDR took office as President?
35. *What if...* Britain and France had declared war on Hitler after he invaded Czechoslovakia in 1938?
36. *What if...* Operation Barbarossa in 1941 was successful and Hitler defeated the Soviet Union?
37. *What if...* Japan did not attack Pearl Harbor in 1941?
38. *What if...* the Valkyrie Conspiracy was successful and Hitler was assassinated in 1944?
39. *What if...* President FDR did not drop Henry A. Wallace as his Vice President for the Election of 1944?
40. *What if...* the U.S. decided not to drop the atomic bombs and instead elected to launch Operation Downfall on "X-Day" (November 1, 1945), a full-scale invasion of Japan?
41. *What if...* the Axis Powers won World War II in 1945?
42. *What if...* Jackie Robinson, an African-American baseball player, was not signed to a professional contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 and not called up to play on April 15, 1947?
43. *What if...* Republican Thomas Dewey *actually* defeated Democrat Harry Truman in the Election of 1948?
44. *What if...* President Truman approved the use of nuclear weapons in 1950 during the Korean War?
45. *What if...* Republican Richard Nixon defeated Democrat John F. Kennedy in the Election of 1960?
46. *What if...* the Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961 was a success?
47. *What if...* the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 escalated into World War III?
48. *What if...* President JFK was not assassinated in 1963?
49. *What if...* the Beatles had broken up in 1966?
50. *What if...* the U.S. never went to war in Vietnam in the 1960s?
51. *What if...* Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was not assassinated in 1968?
52. *What if...* JFK's brother, Robert Kennedy, was not assassinated in 1968?
53. *What if...* the Soviets put a man on the moon *before* U.S. Astronaut Neil Armstrong walked on it in 1969?
54. *What if...* the 1972 Watergate break-in had not been discovered?
55. *What if...* John Hinckley, Jr. successfully assassinated President Ronald Regan in 1981 – just two months into Reagan's Presidency?
56. *What if...* the U.S. was able to capture Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the Persian Gulf War in 1991?
57. *What if...* President Bill Clinton approved the air strike to kill Osama bin Laden in 1999? (*"I could have killed him, but I would have had to destroy a little town called Kandahar in Afghanistan and kill 300 innocent women and children," Clinton admitted in 2001, "and then I would have been no better than him."*)
58. *What if...* President Bill Clinton was impeached and successfully removed from office in 1999?
59. *What if...* Democrat Al Gore defeated Republican George W. Bush in the Election of 2000?
60. *What if...* Hillary Clinton won the Democratic Party's nomination instead of Barack Obama in 2008?