The Poisoner’s Handbook
Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine
in Jazz Age New York
by Deborah Blum
(Non-fiction text which can be found in our local libraries, however I strongly recommend purchasing a copy so you can mark it up and keep notes!)

Tasks:
1. Graphic Anticipatory Sets
2. Substance Properties

Due Date: Monday, August 5th, 8:00am – Room 1704 / 1705 – Mr. Cameron’s / Ms. Eales’ Room

Time Requirement: This book is 11 chapters long. Each chapter is not long and is not difficult to read. But by waiting until the last minute, you will be crunched for time and will not put forth your best effort for your first grade in AP Chemistry. This assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to get a good grade to start a difficult class. Please take advantage of this assignment by putting forth your best effort.

Suggested Timeline: This project can escape you during the summer. To keep you on track, here is a suggested timeline.

Week of May 27th - Order Book
Week of June 3rd - Read – Prologue
Week of June 10th - Read & Write-up Chapters 1 & 2
Week of June 17th - Read & Write-up Chapters 3 & 4
Week of June 24th - Read & Write-up Chapters 5 & 6
Week of July 1st - Read & Write-up Chapters 7 & 8
Week of July 8th - Read & Write-up Chapters 9 & 10
Week of July 15th - Read & Write-up Chapter 11 – Read Epilogue
Week of July 22th – Review & Proofread Document
Week of July 29th - Print Out Document
August 5th - Turn in Summer Assignment

Project Rationale: “Until the early nineteenth century few tools existed to detect a toxic substance in a corpse. Sometimes investigators deduced poison from the violent sickness that preceded death, or built a case by feeding animals a victim’s last meal, but more
often than not poisoners walked free. As a result murder by poison flourished. It became so common in eliminating perceived difficulties, such as a wealthy parent who stayed alive too long, that the French nicknamed the metallic element arsenic *poudre de succession*, the inheritance powder.

“The chemical revolution of the 1800s changed the relative ease of such killings. Scientists learned to isolate and identify the basic elements and the chemical compounds that define life on Earth, gradually building a catalog, *The Periodic Table of the Elements*. In 1804, the elements palladium, cerium iridium, osmium, and rhodium were discovered; potassium and sodium were isolated in 1807; barium, calcium, magnesium and strontium in 1808; chlorine in 1810. Once researches understood individual elements they went on to study them in combination, examining how elements bonded to create exotic compound and familiar substance, such as the sodium-chlorine combination that creates basic table salt (NaCl).” (Blum 1)

Chemicals and chemistry are an integral part of our daily life. This book takes a look at chemistry in a way that puts into perspective the importance of what we will be trying to learn throughout the year.

In addition to learning and connecting chemistry concepts, you will be mastering reading skills with each chapter of this high-level non-fiction text. Anticipatory graphics will urge you to infer and predict before reading and will promote connection and retention during reading. By researching chemical properties, you will be looking at the properties of some of the chemicals that will be covering in class.

**Task 1:** For each chapter of the book you have been provided with a graphic. After reading the chapter you will write two well-developed paragraphs that summarizes the chapter AND tells how the picture relates to it. Please copy and paste each image and place it next to each appropriate summary paragraph.
Chapter 7 – Methyl Alcohol

Chapter 8 – Radium

Chapter 9 – Ethyl Alcohol

Chapter 10 – Carbon Dioxide
Chapter 11 – Thallium

Task 2: Each chapter is named after a molecule, compound, element or a combination. For each chapter, you will take the molecule, compound, or element in the title and research the following facts/information. For chapters that have multiple molecules, compounds or elements, you will research each of them. Your answers should be in table form in chapter order.

- Discover date and person(s)
- 2 chemical properties
- 2 physical properties
- Atomic or molecular structure
- Uses

Format

For Each Chapter

- Write a summary for the chapter and connect your summary to the provided graphic
- Cut and paste the graphic next to your summary paragraph
- Create a table with your facts/information
- The entire document should be typed in a word processor (i.e. Word, Google Doc, etc.)
- 12 font, 1 inch margins
- Please proofread your document for spelling and grammatical mistakes.
- Your document will be due at the beginning of the school year. Your document should be printed.
- Electronic submission will not be accepted

Sample Page

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Chapter # - Chapter Title</th>
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