

Summer Reading 2017 Grades 7 and 8

Summer reading paragraphs and projects are due on Monday, August 28, 2017.

1. **SELECT AND READ ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NOVELS.** Do not use an abridged version of any type. Be prepared to discuss – both orally and in writing – the plot, conflicts, characters, and themes – of the novel you read. On the back of this sheet you will find a list of questions to consider as you read your novel.

Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*.

Johnny Tremain is a talented apprentice at a silversmith in colonial Boston when a horrible accident leaves his hand disfigured and his future forever changed. Since he is no longer able to be a silversmith, his life takes him on a new path that will bring him into touch with Paul Revere, John Hancock and other Boston patriots and help him to discover a new dream that will allow him to be a part of American history.

Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Bronze Bow*.

Driven by hatred for the Romans, Daniel has vowed to see their destruction. His leader is amassing an outlaw force to defeat them, but Daniel has doubts when he hears a teacher from Nazareth preach about the Kingdom of God.

Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*.

Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

2. **ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE ARE THREE SETS OF DISCUSSION TOPICS.** Select one section (A, B, or C) from the list that applies to the novel you read and respond to the question(s) in writing. Your answer should be in paragraph form and should use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. You may write your answer in cursive, using blue or black ink and writing on every other line; or you may type your response. Computer-generated responses should have 1" margins, use Times New Roman/12- or 14-pt. font, and be double-spaced. Include a heading with your name, English 7/8, and the date. Your assignment line should be the title of your novel. Responses should be one-half to one page in length. If you hand write your response, your response will probably need to be closer to a page in length, depending on the size of your handwriting, since you will be writing on every other line. **BE SURE THAT YOUR PAPER IS NEAT!**

At the end of your paper, skip a line or two and then write and sign **one** of the following statements:

I read this _____ *title* _____ by _____ *author* _____ in its entirety.

I read _____ pages of _____ *title* _____ by _____ *author* _____;

3. **SELECT AND ILLUSTRATE AN IMPORTANT SCENE FROM YOUR NOVEL.** Choose a scene that you feel is important to character, plot, or theme development. With your project, include a paragraph that identifies the theme and explains its importance in the novel.* Choose **ONE** of the following methods to illustrate/display your scene.
- A. Poster: Original art work – Any medium is acceptable, including computer-generated art work; however, you may not simply print someone else's artwork/book cover, etc.
 - B. Diorama
 - C. Model: Any medium is acceptable
 - D. Poem (of at least 16 lines): Include scene and character details in your narrative poem!

***Place your paragraph on the back of the poster, diorama, or poem. If you create a model, submit the paragraph along with the model. Include the title and author of the novel as well as your name and class.**

4. **EXTRA CREDIT?** Read one of the other novels listed above and create a project for it also. Questions? Contact Mrs. Pyles at bpyles@pcalions.org. Write your name in the subject line of your email.

Be thorough in your responses. Support your statement with examples from the novel and/or Scripture (whichever applies). A good Bible concordance (available online) will help you find Bible references. Use formal English in your essay; avoid contractions, slang, and abbreviations. Maintain third person point of view and past tense in your responses.

Johnny Tremain Discussion Topics

- A. At the beginning of the novel, Johnny displays pride in his actions and his words.
 - In what ways does Johnny's pride benefit him and other people? In what ways does it harm Johnny and others? How does his pride affect how others view and treat him?
 - What role does pride play in Johnny's accident?
 - What does the Bible have to say about pride? How is this reflected in Johnny's life?
 - What can you learn from Johnny's experiences?
- B. Rab sometimes uses violence to solve problems. Is this a good or a bad quality? How do his actions reflect or refute Biblical principles?
- C. How does Johnny's response to his deformed hand change over the course of the novel? Does he get better at living with his injury? Why or why not? What Biblical principles/truths can be applied to this situation in his life?

The Bronze Bow Discussion Topics

- A. While working for Rosh, what does Daniel feel justified in doing?
 - Are lying and stealing ever justifiable? Why or why not? Support your answer with Scripture.
- B. Toward the end of the story, Daniel debates whether he can repay Leah's love with vengeance, since he feels that is all he has to offer.
 - Is revenge ever a good idea?
 - If so, when? What does the Bible say about it?
- C. What did Daniel's hatred do to him?
 - What can hate do to us?
 - Can you think of a time when you've seen someone's hatred overrule him or her? What happened?

The Witch of Blackbird Pond Discussion Topics

- A. Should Kit have continued visiting Hannah Tupper?
 - Was it right for Kit to directly disobey her aunt and uncle?
 - How could she have kept Hannah as a friend while still doing what her uncle and aunt asked?
- B. Read Romans 13.
 - How does this apply to Kit?
 - How might it apply to you?
- C. Proverbs 12:26 talks about choosing friends.
 - What did Kit do right in choosing her friends?
 - What did she do wrong?
 - Why is it important to consider another person's reputation?
 - How can the wrong association prove disastrous?

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If you have any questions, you may contact Mrs. Pyles at bpyles@pcalions.org.

Identify yourself in the subject line!
