

8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

You will be reading two novels this summer along with an assignment to go along with each of them. The first novel is a collaborative assignment between 8th grade Literature and 8th grade Social Studies. We would like for you to read **one** of the following books: *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes **OR** *The Fifth of March* by Ann Rinaldi. For this assignment, you will need to complete the following questions in all 6 sections below for the book. *All of your answers must be answered in well developed, complete sentences. You also must label each section of questions.* (The second novel assignment is below.)

These two readings and assignments are due at the end of the first week of school.

Knowledge: Choose any 5 from the Knowledge category:

1. Make a list of facts you learned from the story.
2. List the characters and describe them.
3. List **five** new words you learned in the book. Write down their dictionary definition along with one synonym and one antonym.
4. What problems does one of the characters have, and how does he or she solve it?
5. Where did the story take place? Describe it.
6. List and describe some places mentioned in the book.
7. What other books has this author written? Have you read or heard of them?
8. What is the time period in which the book happens?
9. What is a significant part of the book? Describe it.
10. Compare and contrast the events in the book to real life.

Comprehension: Choose any 3 from the Comprehension category:

1. What was the problem in the book, how was it solved?
2. Did anyone in the book do something you did not like? Why? Explain.
3. What kind of book is this? (Genre) List three evidences of this.
4. What was the author's purpose or purposes in writing this book?
5. If you could continue the story, what events would you include? Why?
6. List and describe five major events in the story in the chronological order.
7. Tell in your own words the beginning of the book.

8. How did the main character feel during this book? Give evidence to this.
9. What did the title have to do with the book?
10. Tell in your own words how the setting of the story made it more interesting.

Application: Choose any 3 from the Application category:

1. Did this book remind you of anything that has happened to you? What? Why?
2. Did this book give you any new ideas about yourself? How? Why?
3. What would the main character be likely to do if she or he visited your classroom?
4. If you were in a problem situation like one in the book, how would you have acted? Be sure to tell what the situation is in the book.
5. What lesson did you learn from the story?
6. Tell about a time something similar to what happened in the story happened to you or someone you know.
7. Write a letter to a friend recommending this book.
8. Pretend you are one of the characters in the book. Write a diary about the happenings in your life for two consecutive days.
9. List the places in the book that are important. Then make up a map including these places how you imagine they looked while reading about them. It may be a city map or a country map.
10. What changes would have to be made if the book occurred 500 years ago?

Analysis: Choose any 2 from the Analysis category:

1. If the story occurred long ago, compare that time with today in a good paragraph.
2. Pick one of the main characters. Think of a shape that fits that person's traits. Draw the shape. Then describe the character inside of the shape.
3. Decide which parts of the book include the five W's (who, what, where, when, why) and the H (how). Then write a good paragraph for a newspaper article including these facts.
4. Write a different ending to the book. Explain why you changed it in that way.
5. Tell five ways the main character is like you.

6. Find one word that describes the character in your book very well. Give five reasons/examples for your choice of word.
7. In a good paragraph, state the main ideas of the book.
8. Compare this book with the last book you read.
9. Compare two of the characters in the book.

Synthesis: Choose any 2 from the synthesis category:

1. What part would you change in the story? Why?
2. Write a short story using the same characters from the book you just read.
3. Name one character and rewrite the story from their point of view.
4. Write a poem about this book.
5. Organize this book into three or more sections and give your own subtitle for each section.
6. Design a poster for this book.
7. Pretend you are a librarian recommending this book to someone. Write a paragraph telling what you would say.
8. Make an eight section comic strip with caption showing the main events of the story.
9. Make a radio announcement to advertise the book. Write out the script.
10. Prepare a book jacket that illustrates the kind of book as well as the story.
11. Design costumes for the characters.
12. Identify one problem in the book and give an alternate solution one not given by the author.

Evaluation: Choose any 1 from the evaluation category:

1. Who do you think the author intended to read this book? Why?
2. If you could only save one character from the book in the event of disaster, which one would it be? Why?
3. Is the title fitting for the book? Why or why not?
4. Did you like the way the story ended? Why or why not?
5. Which character in the book would you choose for a friend? Why?
6. What did you think was the most interesting part of the book? Why?
7. Describe the most exciting part of the book. Be sure to give at least three reasons why.

For the **second** novel you are required to read over the summer, you have the choice of what you would like to read. You can find good literature at the public library or local bookstores. Make sure the novel you choose is grade level appropriate. Choose one of the following assignments below to complete for your chosen novel. Make sure to state your book and who the author is. *If you choose one of the writing assignments, make sure you answer in well developed, complete sentences.*

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1. Do a traditional book report outlining the plot, its climax and its resolution. Describe the characters and note the mood and theme of the novel. Also, indicate your opinion of the novel.
2. Create an award for each of the main characters based on their actions in the novel. One might be awarded “most courageous” for fighting peer pressure, another might be awarded “wisest” for the guidance he or she gave other characters. For each award, write a paragraph that explains why this character deserves the award.
3. Create a letter exchange between a character and the author or write a series of self-reflective letters from several characters on what the character learned about themselves, others, and life.
4. Write three poems in response to the novel. The poems can be about the characters, where the book took place or the themes in the book.
5. If you are artistic, think of an important scene and draw it in the way you envisioned it. Place the characters in the scene too. Then write a paragraph explaining why you chose to draw the scene the way you did.