

English 8 Summer Reading

The summer reading assignment for 8th grade is to read two books over the summer. One is a very heavy novel called *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*. For this novel, you will need to read 2 articles and watch a short video before reading the novel. You will also need to read a short article before reading chapter 4. As you read, you will also be required to answer chapter questions. Your second novel can be a book of your choice. There is a suggested reading list at the end of this document, but if there is a book you have in mind that is not listed there, please email me with the title and author, and I will allow you to read it as long as it is an appropriate choice.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred D. Taylor, is set in a dark time of United States history and contains a racial slur, which should offend and upset you when you hear it used toward the characters in the story. The story takes place in the south during the Great Depression. You will need to read short articles to inform you of the history of the time period before and while you read the novel.

Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry

- If you cannot or do not want to purchase the book, you can find the full text here:
 - http://www.coop7th.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/4/6/13469245/roll_of_thunder_hear_my_cry.pdf

- Articles to read and a short video to watch **before** reading the novel:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i32nBdadf8A>
 - <https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/an-overview-of-the-great-depression>
 - <https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/reconstruction>

- Article to read **before reading chapter 4**:
 - <https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/from-slaves-to-sharecroppers-1>

Other Requirements:

1. Read the book carefully.
2. Read a chapter at a time. (There are 12 chapters and a Prologue.)

3. After each chapter, answer the corresponding questions in complete sentences. Please number your answers.

4. Work MUST be typed, double-spaced, 10 or 11 / Black/ Times New Roman font. No other fonts, colors or sizes will be accepted for grading. If you have no other choice but to write it, your answers must be neat and easy to read and have a space between answers.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Be sure you answer them as you read each chapter of the novel rather than waiting until you have finished the book. It is preferred these answers be typed. They are due the first day of school. This assignment will be for a grade.

Chapters 1-3

1. List the four Logan children and their ages.
2. Why must Papa work at another job? What is the work and where does he do it?
3. What does the driver of the school bus like to do to the black children who must walk to school?
4. Why does Papa bring Mr. Morrison to stay with the family?

Chapters 4-5

1. Why does Stacey feel some resentment toward Mr. Morrison, at first?
2. Mr. Morrison says he is not going to tell Stacey's mother about the children going to the Wallace's store. However, what does Mr. Morrison expect Stacey to do?
3. Mama takes her children to see the Berrys. What point is she trying to make the children understand?
4. Considering what has been happening between the races in their area, why does Big Ma make Cassie apologize to Lillian Jean Simms again?

Chapters 6-7

1. How does T.J. trick Stacey into giving him the new coat?
2. What does the Logan family eat for their Christmas dinner?

3. Why do you think the Logan children were so excited about the books they received on Christmas?

4. Why does Mr. Jamison decide to help the black people buy their food and supplies in Vicksburg?

Chapters 8-9

1. What is Cassie's real reason for acting like a servant for Lillian Jean?

2. Why did T.J. want to get Mrs. Logan into trouble?

3. What do you think is the real reason Kaleb Wallace and Harlan Granger have Mrs. Logan fired?

4. What are Christopher-John and Little Man most afraid of when Papa comes home from Vicksburg?

Chapters 10-12

1. List four really important events that happened in both these chapters and place them in the order they occurred.

2. Why do you think Jeremy spends so much time in his tree house?

3. Why do you think Papa starts the fire in his own cotton field?

4. At the end of the last chapter, why do you think Cassie cries for T.J., even though she never liked him?

Overall Review:

1. List three things you learned in this book about segregation and the unequal treatment of African Americans in early America.

2. Beside each thing you listed in the question above, tell whether you think this still exists today.

Please email me with any questions you may have about the assignment
(mcioffi@brownschool.org).

See you in September!
Mr. Cioffi

Suggested Choices:

YOUNG ADULT FICTION AND FANTASY

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
Feed by M.T. Anderson
Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
The Hunger Games Trilogy by Suzanne Collins
The Chocolate War AND I Am the Cheese by Robert Cormier
Copper Sun AND Tears of a Tiger by Sharon Draper
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
Looking for Alaska AND Paper Towns AND The Fault in Our Stars AND Turtles All the Way Down by John Green
Will Grayson by John Green and David Levithan
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
Chains Trilogy Laurie Halse Anderson
We Were Liars by E. Lockhart
The Giver by Lois Lowry
Legend Trilogy by Marie Lu
Sold by Patricia McCormick
I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
His Dark Materials Trilogy by Philip Pullman
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
Eleanor and Park AND Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff
Divergent Trilogy by Veronica Roth
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Saenz
Winger AND Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
The Hobbit AND The Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien
Be More Chill AND It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
Uglies Series by Scott Westerfeld
I Am the Messenger AND The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

CLASSICS and CONTEMPORARY FICTION

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Room by Emma Donoghue
Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
A Separate Peace by John Knowles
The Call of the Wild by Jack London
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
1984 by George Orwell
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

NON-FICTION (including memoir)

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom
A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand
The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose
Steve Jobs: A Biography by Walter Isaacson
Red Scarf Girl by Ji-li Liang
Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer
The Color of Water by James McBride
The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the
Century by Sarah Miller
Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan
Persepolis Series by Marjane Satrapi
Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon by Steve Sheinkin
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
The 57 Bus: The True Story of two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater
The Glass Castle AND Half Broke Horses by Jeannette Walls
This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolff
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai