

SUMMER READING FOR 8TH GRADE ENGLISH

Print your name _____

Date _____

I received my summer reading list and instructions. Included in this packet is my supply list for 8th grade English, my summer reading requirements, a timeline for *Johnny Tremain*, and discussion questions for both *Johnny Tremain* and *The Outsiders*. I realize the questions are due on the first day of school. I understand, also, that I will be tested on the novels the day after we return from summer break.

Signature _____

EIGHTH GRADE SUPPLY LIST FOR ENGLISH

1. Three ring binder for *English only* (1 ½ inches with pockets). This will be very important! Disorganization makes it very difficult to maintain good grades in 8th grade. You will receive many papers and handouts, and it will be necessary for you to use these throughout the year.
2. Dividers to separate quizzes, tests, notes, handouts, and notebook paper
3. Notebook paper
4. Number 2 pencils (you may bring mechanical pencils as long as you also bring extra lead. Running out of lead will not be an excuse for not having a pencil). If you come to class without a pencil and one is required, you must pay \$.025 to buy one.
5. Black pens (Do not use other colors for anything you are turning in for me. Although it may be very pretty, it does make it difficult to read and to distinguish my marks from yours). If you come to class without a pen and one is required, you must pay \$.025 to purchase a new one.
6. Red pens (you may not use these for anything other than grading)
If you come to class without a pen and one is required, you must pay \$.025 to purchase a new one.
7. White out, liquid or runner type
8. A folder with two pockets with notebook paper. This will be used for journal entries the first semester and for your research paper the second semester.
9. One box of facial tissues
10. Students may additionally be required to purchase supplies during the school year; however, this is rare.

Books for Eighth Grade English:

**Elements of Language, Second Course*

**Elements of Literature, Second Course*

**Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics, Second Course* (workbook)

**Vocabulary Workshop, Level C* (workbook)

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow by Susan Campbell Bartoletti

The Martyr's Song by Ted Dekker

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (we will have a classroom set; however, you may wish to purchase this if you would like to have one at home, too)

*** All of these text books and workbooks must be purchased before the first day of school. Novels and *Hitler Youth* may be purchased a bit later; I will give you a few weeks' notice before we are going to read them.**

Eighth Grade Summer Reading Requirements 2011

- I. All students are required to read two books.

Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

- II. Please complete the enclosed timeline on *Johnny Tremain* and the enclosed questions for both books. These assignments will be due on the first day of class. We will also take a test on the 2nd day back from summer break, so if you have any questions about these books, be sure to ask them before that day!

These two books can be found at most any bookstore. You may also purchase them from a used bookstore or from former students.

"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."

Anna Quindlen

Johnny Tremain and the American Revolution Timeline

Johnny Tremain is set during the Revolutionary War Period. I have included the beginning of a timeline to help you place the book in a historical perspective. **Please continue this timeline, including dates and important events from the story.** Your timeline should end approximately the middle of April 1775, as this is when the book ends. Extra Credit will be given to those who do an excellent job of finding all important dates!

"It is better to submit to some abridgement of our rights [as Americans], than to break off our connection with our protector, England"—Governor Thomas Hutchinson of Massachusetts

Hutchinson was an example of a familiar story during the American Revolution--those who remained loyal to England and the King found themselves on the losing side of history. And for this, many of them paid a terrible price.

- 1760 King George III ascends to the throne of England
- 1763 Treaty signed between England and France ending the French and Indian War. Canada and the continent east of the Mississippi River added to Great Britain's growing empire
- 1765 Parliament passes The Stamp Act as a means to pay for British troops on the American frontier. Colonists violently protest the measure
- March 18. Stamp Act repealed, but on the same day parliament passes the Declaratory Act asserting its right to make laws binding on the colonies.
- 1768 October. British troops arrive in Boston to enforce customs laws.
- 1770 March. Four workers shot by British troops stationed in Boston. Patriots label the killings "The Boston Massacre."
- 1771 Johnny's mother died; Johnny went to serve as an apprentice to the silversmith, Mr. Lapham
- 1773 The book Johnny Tremain begins. Johnny is 14 years old.

Complete this timeline on another sheet of paper.

Name _____ Date _____

Johnny Tremain Discussion Questions

Record your answers on a separate piece of notebook paper. Please answer all questions completely and in complete sentences. Questions and answers should be stapled and turned in to Mrs. Gregory on the first day of school.

1. Johnny doesn't find out the story of his parents till the end of the novel. Who was his mother? Who was his father?
2. Describe Rab and explain what happens to him at the end of the novel.
3. Describe Lavinia Lyte and Merchant Lyte (write about 3 sentences for each character).
4. What is the relationship between Johnny and Cilla and how does it change throughout the novel?
5. What happens to Johnny that makes him unable to be a blacksmith? Who replaces him in Mr. Lapham's shop?
6. List each person in the Lapham family and describe their situation when the novel ends.
7. How does Johnny get across the river to find the Doctor?
8. What is the first battle of the Revolutionary War and what is the outcome of the battle?
9. What is the name of Johnny's horse? Describe the personality of the horse.
10. How many years was Johnny supposed to serve under Mr. Lapham as an apprentice?
11. Is Johnny afraid of going to war? Why or why not?
12. What does Johnny Tremain show us about marriage customs in colonial America?
13. What role does religion play in Johnny Tremain's world?
14. Contrast James Otis' rousing speech about the need for revolution with Samuel Adam's attitude toward rebellion. Which do you think Johnny finds more appealing, and why?

15. How is Johnny Tremain's life shaped by the social and economic practices of colonial America on the eve of the Revolution? What does the novel reveal about these practices?
16. Why does John Hancock commission Mr. Lapham to make a sugar basin for a tea set? Who helped Johnny figure out how to complete the sugar basin? Why is the sugar basin not completed?
17. For the following characters, please state whether they are Tory or Whig sympathizers. How were they involved in the book?
 - Jonathan Tremain
 - John Hancock
 - Priscilla Lapham
 - Isannah Lapham
 - Mrs. Lapham
 - Jonathan Lyte
 - Lavinia Lyte
 - Lydia
 - Mrs. Bessie
 - James Otis
 - Rab Silsbee
 - Dove
 - Mr. and Mrs. Lorne
 - Doctor Warren
 - Samuel Adams
 - Paul Revere
 - Governor Hutchinson
 - General Gage
 - Josiah Quincy
 - Mrs. Bessie
 - Pumpkin

The Outsiders Discussion Questions

Record your answers on a separate piece of notebook paper. Please answer all questions completely and in complete sentences. Questions and answers should be stapled and turned in to Mrs. Gregory on the first day of school.

1. List the main characters from the book that are greasers. For each character give a two sentence description.
2. List at least 5 differences between greasers and socs (physical and personality differences).
3. Describe Pony's and Darry's relationship. What do they learn about each other at the end of the novel?
4. What character is the catalyst for helping the two gangs understand each other?
5. What events cause Pony and Johnny to run away?
6. What book does Pony read to Johnny in the church?
7. What do Johnny and Pony do that makes them heroes?
8. Describe the big rumble? What is the outcome?
9. List the characters who die in the novel and how they die.
10. Why does Pony decide to write his story?
11. Compare and contrast Johnny and Dally. What roles do they play in the novel? What roles do they play in Ponyboy's life?
12. Discuss Ponyboy's evolving conception of the Socs. How does his opinion of the Socs at the end of the novel differ from his opinion at the beginning?
13. How is "Nothing Gold Can Stay," the Robert Frost poem that Ponyboy recites to Johnny at the church, relevant to Ponyboy and Johnny's story?
14. In your own words, what is the overall message of the novel?