

English III H Summer Reading

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza with Steve Irwin

Directions for answering study guide questions:

Answer each question thoughtfully, thoroughly, and in complete sentences. When you encounter unfamiliar words, use a dictionary to find the definition. This typed, double-spaced assignment is due on the first full day of class in August.

LEFT TO TELL: DISCOVERING GOD AMIDST THE RWANDAN HOLOCAUST

1. What is the historical basis of the conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes? What role did Belgium play in the situation?
2. Describe life in Immaculee's village. How does she characterize the relationship between the members of the two tribes?
3. What commonalities can you detect between your life and Immaculee's after reading Chapter 1 "The Eternal Spring"?
4. What role did prayer play in Immaculee's life before the genocide? During? After?
5. Why was Pastor Murinzi initially reluctant to help Immaculee and the other women? What or who do you think convinced him to hide them?
6. Describe, in detail, the conditions the women had to contend with while in hiding.
7. After reading Immaculee's story, choose four words to describe her character and relate a situation for each word as evidence to support your choice.
8. What have you learned about genocide, faith, and humanity in reading this memoir?
9. On a page separate from the other questions, write a letter to Immaculee. Introduce yourself and tell her your thoughts and feelings as you read her story.

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

1. Write a one-half page summary of each of the following sections: Ch. 1-11, 12-21, 22-30. Make up an original title for each section according to what happens in each section.
2. Choose one of these characters: Ma Joad, Tom Joad, or Casy. As you read, keep track of how your character develops or grows during the course of the novel. Take notes on important events, dialogue, etc. that help to develop him or her.
3. Steinbeck's depiction of women in *Of Mice and Men* and *The Grapes of Wrath* differs. Explain how he depicts women in each novel. (If you haven't read *Of Mice and Men*, then explain how Steinbeck depicts women in *The Grapes of Wrath*.)

4. What does the word “Oakie” mean, and what emotions does it reflect in both the people who use the word and those to whom it refers?
5. If the Joad family stands for the larger “family” of humanity, how does it? Explain this symbolism using plot and character.
6. Two of the novel’s themes revolve around the ideas of hope and commitment. Think of these two ideas in connection with the novel. Write a theme statement-one for each word-that makes a point about each of these ideas. List supports for each theme.
7. Even though this novel is about a family who lived in the 1930s, why is this book still relevant for us today?

English III U Summer Reading

Playing with the Enemy by Gary W. Moore

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PLAYING WITH THE ENEMY

1. Gene is unique in his ability to show compassion for his enemies during wartime. What does it take for someone to put aside political and national loyalties to help someone else? In what situation would you be able to do the same thing? What would you sacrifice for a stranger?
2. Do you have a sport, talent, or skill that means as much to you as baseball meant to Gene? Is this still a part of your life? How has participation in this activity enriched your life?
3. Years after their first meeting, Heinrich shows Gene all that he has to be grateful for in his life, even without baseball; in a sense, Gene is revived by the love of and for his wife and children. What does this say about the redemptive power of love?
4. Why do you think Gene chose not to tell Gary about his baseball experience for so many years? Do you agree with his decision? Do you think there are any other reasons he didn't mention that would or should have kept him from sharing this story with his children?
5. Moore is honest in his depiction of his father's means of not dealing with his heartbreak over baseball. What was your reaction to Gene's behavior? Do you believe it was appropriate to his loss?
6. Aside from Gene, who was your favorite character? Why? At what moment in the book did you recognize this?
7. If this book were made into a film and you were the director, who would you cast in the roles of Gene, Heinrich, Ward, Frank, and Ray? Explain your choices.
8. Gene decides to teach the Germans baseball in part because he simply misses playing, but what are some of his other motives? What are the Germans' reasons for cooperating?
9. In what ways were Frank Boudreau and Pop Moore important father figures in Gene's life? What did he learn from each man?
10. Why is it important to preserve family history? Interview a parent or grandparent about their favorite family memories. Retell the story for this assignment and discuss with them why this is a significant memory.

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Egnlish III C SUMMER READING

Playing with the Enemy by Gary W. Moore (required)

Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza with Steve Irwin (optional)

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