

**FRESHMAN
JCA SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Welcome to the JCA summer reading program. Complete the assignments listed in this study guide and record them on notebook paper. This assignment will be graded. You are required to read only the books in the level to which you have been assigned but you may read all five if you wish!

English IA	if i should die before i wake by Han Nolan The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
English IU	if i should die before i wake by Han Nolan The Dead and The Gone by Susan Beth Pfeffer
English IC	The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

if i should die before i wake – Han Nolan

1. List the factors that contributed to Hilary becoming involved with the Neo-Nazi group. Why does Hilary enjoy being a part of the group?
2. The violin is very important to Chana. How has playing the violin benefited her in the past? Why does she refuse to play it during the novel?
3. Explain, in several sentences each, what happens to each of Chana’s family members: Tata, Zayde, Anya, Mama, Jakub, Nadzia, Bubbe.
4. How does Bubbe describe Chana’s “shvester” to her? Tell about a time when you have been in need of a “shvester.”
5. Comment on each of the following quotes from the novel (p. 281) explaining why each would be important to Hilary. Then comment on what you can learn from each one.
 - a. “If you can understand a person you can love them.”
 - b. “Everyone shares the same past, the same future, but some will see it better than others.”
6. What is Chana trying to tell Hilary with the Bible verse Jeremiah 1:4-10? Predict what Hilary will do with her knowledge from this experience.

The Secret Life of Bees – Sue Monk Kidd

In pen, answer the following questions about this book in several complete sentences each.

1. How does learning that T-Ray used to be different and that he truly loved Deborah shed light on why he treats Lily so cruelly and abusively?
2. What qualities does Lily possess that allow her to survive, endure, and eventually thrive despite T-Ray? Explain.
3. Who is the queen bee in the story? Explain.
4. What compels Rosaleen to spit on the three men’s shoes? What qualities does she possess that help her to stand up to injustice?
5. How would the story have been different if the picture on the jar had been a white Madonna instead of a black Madonna?
6. What was May’s wailing wall and what did she do there? List some other rituals people have to deal with grief and suffering.
7. How does being the company of the circle of females transform Lily?

The Dead and The Gone – Susan Beth Pfeffer

1. Why does it help Alex to make lists of things he knows?
2. What role does religious faith play in the Morales family? How does their faith sustain them throughout their hardships?
3. Why does Alex pray after he leaves Yankee Stadium? What does he not want to acknowledge?
4. Where does Alex send Bri? Do you think it was the right decision? What is Julie's reaction?
5. How does Alex feel about going "body shopping" with Kevin? Would you do the same under similar circumstances?
6. What does Harvey want in return for arranging to get Alex and Bri to Florida? How would you characterize Harvey and the things he does?
7. Kevin and Alex talk about what they miss most. Under similar circumstances, what would you miss most? What would you do to try to compensate for and cope with what you missed?
8. How does Alex's relationship with his sisters change over the course of the story?
9. When the first big snow comes, Alex starts to doubt the wisdom of every decision he has made. Do you agree with him that all of his decisions were mistakes? What decisions would you have made differently from Alex?
10. What do you think will become of Alex and Julie?

The Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan

1. Make a list of at least 10 different Greek gods and record their domain (what they represent). Extra credit may be awarded for lists that go beyond 10.
2. What qualities of Percy's life tell him that he is special or that are the qualities that all demi-gods possess? What are the parts of his mortal life that he enjoys? What parts of his mortal life would he like to change?
3. What is Percy's relationship with Poseidon? Because of this relationship, what are the effects on his relationship with Zeus? (Examples should include powers that he is given and limitations that are placed on him.)
4. How are the gods different from or similar to humans? How is the immortal world different from or similar to the mortal world?
5. Who is Kronos? What does he want in this novel and how does he plan to achieve his desires? How does this plan involve Luke's betrayal?
6. What is "Western Civilization"? Why do the Olympians constantly move to the place where the spirit of Western Civilization burns brightest?
7. Would you rather be a god, demi-god, a human, a centaur, a satyr, a wood nymph, a Nereid, or a monster? Why? Provide examples from the text to support your choice.