

JOLIET CATHOLIC ACADEMY JUNIOR SUMMER READING

Book Assignments

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

Upper College: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust by Immaculee Ilibagiza with Steve Irwin

Honors: *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.

The Help by Katherine Stockett

Before you begin reading, visit <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement> to gain background knowledge about the American Civil Rights movement.

1. What role does Aibileen and Minny's church play in their community?
2. Do you believe that Minny was justified in her distrust of white people? Explain.
3. Which character do you most admire? Explain why and name at least 2 character traits the character possesses that are admirable.
4. If Aibileen had continued to work for Miss Elizabeth would Mae Mobley have grown up to be racist like her mother? Do you think racism is inherent, or learned?
5. Minny and Aibileen are very different-Minny is younger and spirited, Aibileen is older and more reserved-yet they have a strong friendship. How do these differences help them in their friendship?

6. Aibileen says she has a bitter seed growing in her chest ever since her Treelore died. Her reaction to things that trouble her is to push them down inside. Eventually she agrees to collaborate with Skeeter on the book. How does the book help Aibileen release this bitter seed?
7. Aibileen tells Skeeter that if the truth about the book comes out there will be terrible consequences. She says, "A white lady do things different than a white man." How does a white woman exert her power over people in this book. Do you think it is just as vicious as a man?
8. How does Yule May's imprisonment affect the black community? Why is it the catalyst that drives the maids to agree to talk to Skeeter?

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?