

Summer Reading

Entering

11th Grade

August 2009

Please read the books listed below in preparation for 11th grade.

The Cross and the Switchblade, David Wilkerson

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee

John Adams, David McCulloch

Keep a reading response journal attached (*Cross*), write summary paragraphs (*John Adams*), and write a book review (*To Kill a Mockingbird*).

These books should be read, book review written, chapter summaries written, and the response journal entries completed by the first day of school, August 2009.

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The Cross and the Switchblade, David Wilkerson

Response Journal

As you read the book, stop **four** times and think about what you have been reading.

Can you identify with David Wilkerson in any way? Do you agree or disagree with the choices he is making? Why? In what ways do you see the hand of God and the power of God at work in David's life? In what ways do you see the hand of God and the power of God at work in the lives of the gang members in New York? What do you think about what you are reading?

2.

The Cross and the Switchblade, David Wilkerson

Response Journal

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3.

4.

11th Grade – 2009

Chapter Summaries

John Adams, David McCulloch

Write summaries (at least 200 words each) for each of the following (six) chapters in *John Adams*.

Chapters 1 to 3 and 9 to 11

Use a **journal/notebook/spiral/composition** book or type.

Each summary should contain at least 200 words.

Label your entries clearly with the week, date, and chapter.

Concentrate on answering these questions as you write your chapter summaries:

- What events in the chapter you read contribute to who John Adams was as a man, as a father and husband, and as a president?

- What challenges did he face? How did he deal with those challenges?

- What characteristics or events stand out in the chapter?

- What did you learn that you did not know before?

**Due Date: First Day of School
August 2009**

Correct Heading for each entry:

June 11, 2009 John Adams Summary for Chapter One

John Adams contemplated his own shortcomings and weaknesses honestly. When he discussed his "failings," he included.... Some of the ways Adams tried to redress his failings were Unfortunately, there were those who tried to exploit John Adams's weaknesses. For example, ...

Book Review

Entering 11th Grade

***To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee**

This assignment asks you to use the resources on the internet to help you be a better writer. (You might want to mark this websites as a “Favorite” for later reference.)

1. First of all, visit the following website and read all of the tabs.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev/index.htm>

- 🔊 Writing with Writers
- 🔊 Book Review Home
- 🔊 Step 1-Read My Book Review
- 🔊 Step 2-Writing Tips
- 🔊 Step 3-Writing Challenges
- 🔊 Step 4-Revision Guidelines
- 🔊 Step 5-Publish Online

2. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
3. Once you have read the book, go back to the website and read again Rodman Philbrick’s review of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the tips he gives.
4. Write a scratch outline of Philbrick’s review to give yourself a possible format for your review. Pay attention to the following:
 - Philbrick does not have a thesis statement like you have learned to write. Instead, he uses a summarizing statement of the book to introduce his review: “Scout is the reason I loved this book, because her voice rings so clear and true. Not only does she make me see the things she sees, she makes me feel the things she feels. There’s a lot more going on than just the trial, and Scout tells you all about it.” As you read the review, notice that everything he says about the book shows how he is able to “see the things that [Scout] sees” and “feel the things she feels.”
 - Philbrick then goes on to talk about individual characters and why they stood out to him. Notice that he chooses specific, interesting attributes to mention and includes a quote or two to prove what he’s saying.
 - Next, Philbrick mentions the theme of the novel and summarizes events that contribute to the theme but does not give away the ending.
 - He concludes with a couple of paragraphs that demonstrate the relevance of the novel in today’s world.
5. Write your own review of the book. 600-700 words, 12-14 font, typed.
6. Email your report to me at candujar@christchapel.org when you finish it.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev/index.htm>

Here's a review I wrote about one of my favorite books, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Read my review, and try using it as a model as you begin thinking about your own book review.

To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee
Review by Rodman Philbrick

I've never been to Alabama, but novelist Harper Lee made me feel as if I had been there in the long, hot summer of 1935, when a lawyer named Atticus Finch decided to defend an innocent black man accused of a horrible crime. The story of how the whole town reacted to the trial is told by the lawyer's daughter, Scout, who remembers exactly what it was like to be eight years old in 1935, in Maycomb, Alabama.

Scout is the reason I loved this book, because her voice rings so clear and true. Not only does she make me see the things she sees, she makes me feel the things she feels. There's a lot more going on than just the trial, and Scout tells you all about it.

A man called Boo Radley lives next door. Very few people have ever seen Boo, and Scout and her friends have a lot of fun telling scary stories about him. The mystery about Boo Radley is just one of the reasons you want to keep turning the pages to find out what happens in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Scout and her big brother, Jem, run wild and play games and have a great time while their father is busy with the trial. One of their friends is a strange boy called Dill. Actually Dill isn't really so strange once you get to know him. He says things like "I'm little but I'm old," which is funny but also pretty sad, because some of the time Dill acts more like a little old man than a seven-year-old boy.

To Kill a Mockingbird is filled with interesting characters like Dill, and Scout makes them all seem just as real as the people in your own hometown. Here's how Scout describes Miss Caroline, who wore a red-striped dress: "She looked and smelled like a peppermint drop."

Dill and Boo and Jem are all fascinating, but the most important character in the book is Scout's father, Atticus Finch. You get the idea that Scout is writing the story down because she wants the world to know what a good man her dad was, and how hard he tried to do the right thing, even though the deck was stacked against him.

The larger theme of the story is about racial intolerance, but Scout never tries to make it a "lesson," it's simply part of the world she describes. That's why *To Kill a Mockingbird* rings true, and why it all seems so real.

The trial of the wrongly accused Tom Robinson takes place during the time of segregation, when black people were not allowed to socialize with white people. In that era, when a white man said a black man committed a crime, the black man was presumed to be guilty. The law required that they have a trial, but everybody knew the defendant was going to be convicted.

Atticus Finch, the quiet hero of the book, tries to persuade the jury that bigotry is wrong. His words are eloquent and heartfelt. He demonstrates that Tom Robinson couldn't possibly have assaulted the victim. Atticus even reveals the identity of the real villain, which enrages a very dangerous enemy. This act of courage endangers not only Atticus Finch but his family as well. They become the target of hate mongers and bigots.

Even though the story took place many years ago, you get the idea that parts of it could happen today, in any town where people distrust and fear each other's differences.

In a just world an innocent man should be found not guilty. But if you want to know what this particular jury finally decides and what happens to Scout and Jem and Dill and Boo Radley and the rest of the people who live and breathe in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, you'll have to read the book!

(648 words)