

Summer Reading

Entering

12th Grade

August 2009

Please read the books listed below in preparation for 12th grade.

What's So Amazing About Grace? Philip Yancey

The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas

Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery, Eric Metaxas

Answer reading response journal questions (*What's So Amazing*), write a book report (*Amazing Grace*), and answer discussion questions (*The Count of Monte Cristo*).

These books should be read and the journal/study guide entries completed by the first day of school, August 2009.

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What's So Amazing About Grace? Philip Yancey

Response Journal

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

Can you identify with Philip Yancey in any way? Do you agree or disagree with the statements he is making? Why? In what ways do you connect with what Yancey is writing? What do you think about what you are reading?

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Discussion Questions

for *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas

For help with the plot, characters, etc., see Interpretive Notes beginning on page 637.

Thoroughly (at least 200 words) answer four of the Questions for Discussion at the end of the book (reprinted below).

Use a spiral notebook, journal, or type your responses.

1. Is the Count of Monte Cristo like the vigilante heroes of modern movies and television? How is he different? How is his quest for revenge different?
2. In what sense is Abbe Faria Dantes's second father? Why do you think Faria emphasized the ways a man could use the treasure to help his friends?
3. Do you think the Count arranged Albert's kidnapping in Rome? Did the kidnapping further his revenge?
4. Why do you think the Count does not make any efforts to win back Mercedes once he is free? What effects on the Count does Haydee's love have?
5. Describe how *The Count of Monte Cristo* plays upon the 10th century French obsession with exotic things. How is the Count of Monte Cristo's adoption of eastern culture and society reflected in his treatment of his friends and enemies?
6. Edmond Dantes takes on a number of aliases during the course of the novel and many other characters have a variety of names as well. What do you consider to be the significance of names in *The Count of Monte Cristo*? Can you speculate on the meaning of each of Edmond Dantes's assumed names?
7. Madame Danglars and Mercedes are peers in the story. In what ways are they similar? Do their behaviors contrast? What roles do they play in the revenge on their husbands?
8. Monte Cristo tells Mercedes "The sins of the fathers shall fall upon their children." Does he adhere to that philosophy in taking his revenge?
9. Consider Edmond's personal character at the novel's beginning and at his end. What has he lost? What has he gained? Is he satisfied with what he has done?

10. The last words that Monte Cristo utters to Maximillian are “Wait and hope.” What does he mean? What is the significance of the statement?

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Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery, Eric Metaxas

After reading *Amazing Grace*, write a book report that focuses on your reaction/response to the book. This is not your 5th grade book report. This report should demonstrate your “deep thinking” on the topic of the book and how the topic relates to your life and/or what you see in the news and in history.

Book Report (700-800 words) Scratch Outline

- I. Introduction (include title and author in a sentence, and publisher and publication date in parentheses). Discuss the theme or overall message of the book. Thesis statement.
- II. Summary of the work (Objective/factual, write in third person only).

Questions to consider when writing the Reaction paragraphs:

How is the work related to ideas or concerns discussed in classes I've taken?

How is the work related to problems in our present-day world?

How is the work related to my life, experiences, feelings, and ideas?

Your reactions should also evaluate the merit of the book: the importance of its points and its accuracy, completeness, and organization.

- III. Reaction #1 to the work with 2 specific examples/quotes
- IV. Reaction #2 to the work with 2 specific examples/quotes
- V. Reaction #3 to the work with 2 specific examples/quotes
- VI. Conclusion (include theme, opinion/recommendation)

The book report should be typed, double-spaced, 12 or 14 font, Times New Roman or Arial, black ink. On the last page, list the word count.

You may email the report to me at candujar@christchapel.org when you finish it.