

Summer Reading

Entering

9th Grade

August 2010

Please read the books listed below in preparation for 9th grade.

The Power of a Praying Teen, Stormie Omartian

The Last Sin Eater, Francine Rivers

Adventures in Missionary Heroism, John C. Lambert & Joshua M. Wean

Keep a reading response journal for *Praying Teen*, answer the discussion questions at the back of *The Last Sin Eater* book, and write a character book report for *Adventures in Missionary Heroism*.

These books should be read, book report written, questions answered and the journal entries completed by the first day of school, August 2010.

9th Grade – 2010

Journal Discussion Questions

for use with *The Last Sin Eater*, Francine Rivers

Thoroughly answer (at least one paragraph per question)
six of the Discussion Questions
at the end of the book (reprinted below).

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

1. In your opinion, who or what caused the families in the valley to believe in a sin eater? Why do you think these people went along with such an idea? What consequences occurred because of their fear? How did they respond when confronted with the truth?
2. What traditions or patterns in your life might be holding you captive? What are some ways fear might prevent you from experiencing truth?
3. What things were revealed about Brogan? How were they revealed? What excuses did he offer for his actions? How did he respond to truth?
4. What kinds of excuses do you use to cover up your secrets?
5. What revelations were made concerning Sim? Who revealed them and why? How did Sim respond to the truth? What actions did he take?
6. How do you respond when confronted with the truth? Are you a reactor, an action taker, or do you just ignore it? Explain.
7. Contrast Iona and Bletsung. What was revealed about each woman? What motivated each one? Upon hearing the truth, what course of action did each woman take? What lifestyle did each choose thereafter?
8. When facing difficult choices, what motivates you to either act or do nothing? Be specific.
9. What was revealed about Cadi? About her mother, Fia? How did their guilty feelings keep them apart? What role did Lilybet play? Compare Cadi's and Fia's actions and resolve regarding truth.
10. How has tragedy impaired your relationships? What have you done to promote healing in others? Who comforted or counseled you?
11. Discuss Fagan's relationship with "the stranger." What was missing in his relationship with his father? What was revealed to Fagan about his family? How did Elda encourage him?
12. How do you deal with rejection? To whom do you turn for encouragement?

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Adventures in Missionary Heroism

Choose three stories from the book to read, write a book report that focuses on the three characters of the book and the choices he/she makes. (Please choose your stories from different parts of the book.)

You should begin your report with an overview or summary of the book and your thesis statement (sentence that states what your whole essay is going to be about). You should then discuss the three characters and how their character traits influence the choices that the character makes. Use quotes (with page numbers) from the book to “prove” what you are saying. You should next analyze the character personality and behavior and the choices the character makes and how they impact (help, enhance, hurt, damage) the people around him or her. Finally, conclude your report with your final thoughts and your recommendation about who should read the book and why.

Sample outline:

- I. Introduction
 - a. “Hook” to get the reader’s attention
 - b. Summary of the book (7-10 sentences)
 - c. Thesis statement (sentence that gives the three character traits you are going to explain)

- II. Character #1
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Brief summary of the character including explanation (analysis) of his or her personality and behavior (at least four sentences)
 - c. Include at least one quote from the book (be sure to list the page #)
 - d. Impact of the character’s life or choices on the people around him or her

- III. Character #2
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Brief summary of the character including explanation (analysis) of his or her personality and behavior (at least four sentences)
 - c. Include at least one quote from the book (be sure to list the page #)
 - d. Impact of the character’s life or choices on the people around him or her

- IV. Character #3
 - a. Topic sentence
 - b. Brief summary of the character including explanation (analysis) of his or her personality and behavior (at least four sentences)
 - c. Include at least one quote from the book (be sure to list the page #)
 - d. Impact of the character’s life or choices on the people around him or her

- V. Conclusion
 - a. Final thoughts about the characters
 - b. Final thoughts about the book (shown through the characters)
 - c. 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 and the following information about your book: *Title*, author, copyright date, publisher, city/state where it was published, number of pages in the book.

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