## 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Congratulations on completing your 7 th grade year!! I pray that you have a safe and happy summer, full of fun and relaxation. For your summer reading assignment, please read ONE of the following books:

- The Shack by W.M. Paul Young
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
- The Case for Christ: Student Edition by Lee Strobel
- The Life of Jesus by Ben Alex



## Instructions:

For this assignment, you will have the whole summer to write a total of 10 well-written journal responses to your chosen novel. You will have the duration of the summer to fully develop and support your ideas. You must select at least one of each "question type". You should demonstrate your understanding of your chosen novel by selecting appropriate questions for your book, fully answering them with your own ideas, and then supporting your ideas with evidence from the book.

SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR THE LIST OF CHOICE QUESTIONS.

## Knowledge:

1. Write the names of the most important characters in the story and explain their importance.
2. Identify the relationships of the characters in the story to one another. How do these relationships help to tell the story?
3. When and where does the story take place? What clues in the story did you use to determine the setting?
4. Who are the protagonists and antagonists in your story? How do you know?
5. What was the climax of the story? How do you know that this is the true turning point?

## Comprehension:

1. Find a sentence in the story that has some words in it that you do not understand. Explain that sentence in your own words.
2. What did the author want you to think about the main character? What things in the story made you think this is what the author wanted you to think? Can you prove why you think this way about this character?
3. What was the cause of any one of the events in the story? In other words, what made something happen the way that it did? Was it something someone did or said?
4. Write a detailed summary of a two-day reading section.
5. Illustrate a significant part in the story and then write about your drawing.

## Application:

1. Think of one way that a person in the story solved a problem. Write about what you learned about how this character solved their problem.
2. Think of a situation that happened to a person in the story and decide whether you would have done the same thing he or she did or something entirely different.
3. Select any one of the characters in your book and think of some ways they might act here at OLGC. What would they be like in our class? How about in Science or Phys. Ed?
4. Write a letter to a friend or family member summarizing an important part of the book. Be sure to include things a character said and how they might have felt.
5. Make a map that details the setting of the book or the movement of characters. Explain your map in your entry.
6. Create a conversation between two characters from your book. Why add this conversation?

## Synthesis:

1. Write an alternate ending or scene from the one the author wrote. Give examples from the book from the original part and then share why you made the changes you did.
2. Write a poem about an event or one of the characters in your story. What made you write a poem with this specific mood and tone?
3. Think back in the story and try rewriting an incident from it. Substitute the setting or a character with a different one altogether. For example, substitute a tropical island with the school setting in your book.
4. Write 5 possible test questions for your book and answer them with evidence from the book.
5. Design a poster to promote the book you read. Then write about the arguments you have for reading this book.
6. Research an event or person mentioned in your book. How does this real-world connection fit in with the book you're reading?

## Evaluation:

1. What personality trait would you attach to the main character of your novel and why? Defend your decision with examples from the book.
2. Choose two characters from the book and compare and contrast them. In the end, which one do you think is better and why?
3. Compare this book with another book that you've read. How is it similar and how is it different?
4. Choose a character from the book and tell what you think about that person. Do you like him or her? Would you like to have that person as a friend?
5. Justify the actions or thoughts of your main character in the book. Prove that the decision or the thoughts they have are the correct ones.

## Analysis:

1. What part of the story was the funniest? Most exciting? Saddest?
2. Create a plot diagram about your book, complete with all of the different components.
3. What was the author's purpose in writing the book? What idea or feeling did the author want to give you about the theme?
4. Make a timeline of events that happened in the book. Then rate these events from most important to least important.
5. Choose a character and imagine that he or she needed to pack a suitcase for an upcoming vacation. What would you find in it and what from the story makes you think this?

## MINI EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU SHOULD FORMAT YOUR JOURNAL ENTRIES:

## Entry \#1: Knowledge Question-

Write the names of the most important characters in the story and explain their importance.

Answer goes here in complete sentences... blah, blah, and blah. At a minimum each entry should at least be 6-8 sentences in length. Don't forget about your QUOTES!

## Entry \#2: Synthesis Question-

What if you were involved in an exciting part of the story? How would you feel and act?

More answers. Still in complete sentences... This example only has two entries, but you should have 10 of these by the end of the month.

## RUBRIC FOR JOURNAL ENTRIES:

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| I can synthesize key ideas from the text with real world situations, or other texts. <br> I can support my synthesis through citing textual evidence and making inferences. | I can analyze key ideas and details from a text through citing textual evidence and making inferences. | I can identify details that support key ideas from the text. | I can recognize that text has key ideas and details. | No evidence or insufficient evidence of recognizing key ideas and details. |

