

## English 11 Summer Reading 2010

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### *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* by Charles Sheldon

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1. Read the unabridged version of *In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon. You can locate a copy in the library, in a bookstore, or on line (if you like to read the computer!).
2. As you read the book, answer your Study Guide questions (attached) in a READING RESPONSE JOURNAL. You may use a composition book, a spiral notebook, or a 3-ring binder (1-1½ ") to hold your Study Guide and your responses.
  - ✎ Format:
    - Computer: 12 pt. in a standard font (Times Roman, Arial, etc.), 1" margins; double space between answers.
    - Handwriting: Write in cursive; use blue or black ink; observe paper margins; skip lines between answers. Write legibly.
  - ✎ Content:
    - Be specific in your answers.
    - Change the question to a statement to begin each answer. Use complete sentences.
    - Your answers should indicate that you have read the book. Think before you write!
    - Avoid second person pronouns.
    - Use first person pronouns ONLY when asked to give an opinion.
    - Observe spelling, punctuation, and capitalization rules.
    - Avoid sentence fragments and run-on sentences.
3. During the second week of school you will have an essay assignment based on this novel.
4. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Select one of the following books, read it, and create a promotional poster for it. Directions for the poster are on the back of this sheet. Read an unabridged version of a book that you have not yet read! **Posters are due by September 13, 2010**
  - Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women; Little Men; Jo's Boys; Eight Cousins; Rose in Bloom.*
  - Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans* (or any of the Leatherstocking series)
  - Cather, Willa. *My Antonia; O Pioneers*
  - Douglas, Lloyd C. *The Robe*
  - Ferber, Edna. *So Big; Giant*
  - Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain.*
  - Grey, Zane. *Spirit of the Border; Riders of the Purple Sage* (and many other great Western novels)
  - Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of the Seven Gables.*
  - Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird.*
  - London, Jack. *The Call of the Wild; White Fang*
  - Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*
  - Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond.*
  - Porter, Gene Stratton. *Girl of the Limberlost, The Keeper of the Bees*
  - Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin.*
  - Thurber, James. *The Thread That Runs So True*
  - Wallace, Lew. *Ben-Hur*

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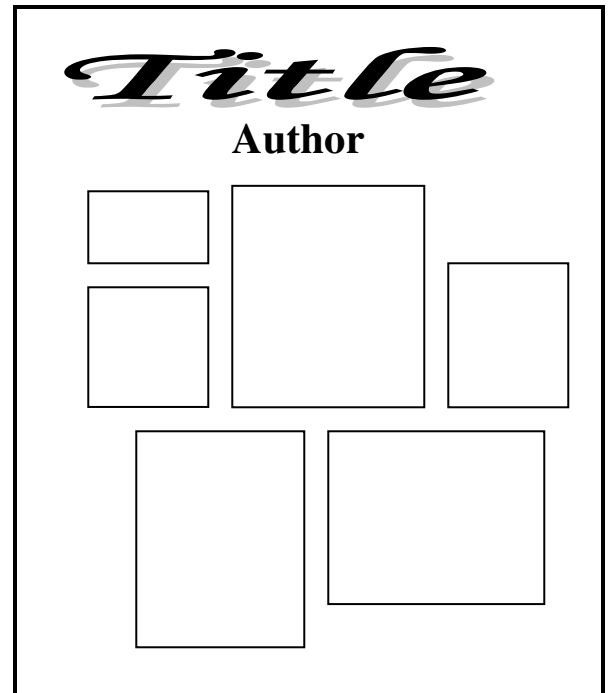
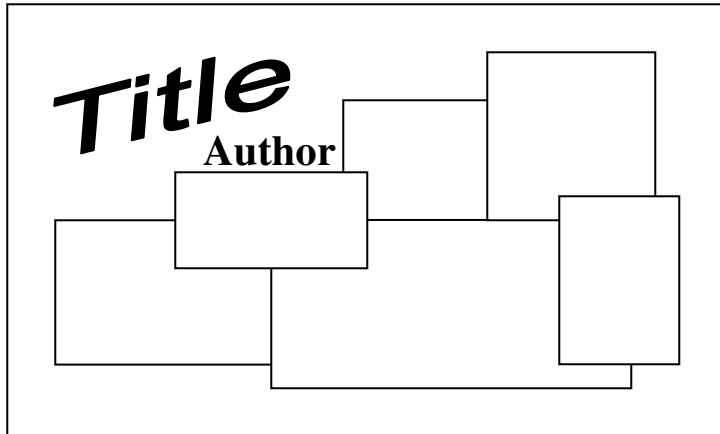
**READER RESPONSE JOURNALS: due September 7, 2010**

**PROMOTIONAL POSTERS: due September 13, 2010**

*If you have any questions, you may email Mrs. Pyles at [bpyles@ecsflames.org](mailto:bpyles@ecsflames.org)*

# Summer Novel Promotional Poster

- **Due Date:** September, 2010
- **Materials:** standard sized poster board, arranged either vertically or horizontally (See samples.)
- **Value:** One half test grade (50 points)



**Include the following elements on your poster. Arrange your work neatly and attractively.**

- Title and author (distinctive, but not overpowering)
- Illustration  
This should fit the content and tone of the story, it should not be offensive in any way, and it should be neat.
  - ◆ original artwork - any medium
  - ◆ magazine picture/photo collage
  - ◆ computer art collage
- Descriptive phrases/clauses/sentences that focus on each of the following:
  - ◆ the protagonist
  - ◆ the antagonist
  - ◆ 3 major conflicts
  - ◆ the tone of the story
  - ◆ setting
  - ◆ a plot twist or interesting clue
- Evaluation
  - ◆ This may be presented in the form of a quote or quotes, a critique, a well-written sentence, or a series of descriptive phrases.
- Write your name and class on the back of your poster. Then copy and sign the following statement. If you did not read the entire book, complete the second statement instead.

➤ **Do NOT just copy someone else's illustration of your book! Make the art your own!**

- **This information should show a clear understanding of the novel.**
- **All statements should be typed and glued neatly to the poster.**
- **Do not share the outcome of the story!**

**I read this book in its entirety OR I read \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ pages,  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_**

## English 11 Summer Reading 2010

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### *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* Study Guide

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*In His Steps*, the best-selling book written by Charles Monroe Sheldon, was first published in 1896. It has sold more than 30,000,000 copies and is listed in the top ten bestsellers of all time.

At the beginning of the school year, you will be expected to discuss this novel in class. As you read, consider its characters, plots, and themes from a Biblical viewpoint. Do the characters make good choices? If not, what – if any – are the consequences? Does the message of the novel reflect or oppose God's truth? What life lessons can be learned? Be prepared to discuss these and similar questions in class.

As you read the book this summer, answer the following questions in your Reading Response Journal. It would be wise to answer the questions at the chapter breaks indicated rather than to wait until you have finished the book! I am expecting thoughtful responses that involve more than just a short simple sentence.

#### **Chapters 1-2**

1. What's ironic about Rev. Maxwell's first meeting with the tramp?
2. Is First Church typical of most churches in America today? Explain.
3. It has been suggested that all of Jesus' teachings can be neatly summarized in the following words, "follow me." What do you think Jesus meant when He said that? What is the tramp's definition of following Jesus?
4. On what basis does Rev. Maxwell say they will be able to determine what Jesus would do? What would you add, if anything, to his statement?
5. Little is said about the individual motives of the volunteers. Does motive matter in deciding to follow Jesus? What were the original disciples' motives?

#### **Chapters 3-5**

6. Why do you think Clark feels that Norman's decision to follow Christ will ruin the newspaper?
7. Norman felt the inclusion of tobacco and liquor ads contrary to his pledge and phased them out of his publication. Suppose you own a grocery store. Would you carry such products on your shelves? Discuss.
8. Norman is a sole proprietor (one without partners' or shareholders' interests to consider), does this make following Jesus easier or more difficult? Why?
9. What does Alexander Powers, the railroad superintendent, endeavor to provide his workers? What is his attitude toward his employees?
10. Mr. Powers comes into possession of clear and convincing evidence of antitrust violations by his employer. He feels the tug of various loyalties – employer, family, society, and Christ. What would you do in his position? Why?

#### **Chapter 6-7**

11. Rachel decides not to accept the lucrative professional singing offers because she feels that "Jesus would never use any talent like a good voice just to make money." Madam and Rollin Page make the argument that Rachel's voice belongs to a larger audience than that of Raymond and First church – Rachel bristles at such a notion, why?
12. Virginia's grandmother, Madam Page, characterizes Rev. Maxwell's proposition as "implacable," "absurd" and "foolish". If you took the pledge, what would be your families' response?
13. What is Rachel's main reason for rejecting Rollin's advances?
14. Rachel, accustomed to a life of ease, comfort and pleasure, is herself convicted by her judgment of Rollin. She cries out, "I want to do something that will cost me in the way of sacrifice. . . . I am

hungry to suffer for something." Do you have a desire to experience a personal sacrifice, to suffer for Christ? Explain.

15. Where is the Rectangle in your world? Where does Jesus call you to follow despite the cost?

### **Chapter 8-11**

16. In what ways is Rev. Maxwell becoming more and more like the "shabby tramp" of Chapter 1?
17. Mr. Norman's actions are taken without regard to the effects on the bottom line. Instead, he considers only his obedience to Christ. Is this any way to run a business? Discuss.
18. Mr. Powers finds a contradiction in the railroad business. What is it?
19. In what ways have you suffered for Christ?
20. The saloon and political corruption are viewed as the main threats to the city. What would you say are the main agents of social corruption and individual ruin today? How would Jesus have you respond?

### **Chapter 12-14**

21. In what ways were the 'slumming' ladies, including Virginia, the real outcasts?
22. Who or what did Madam Page value more than Loreen?
23. Norman says, "A great many men would lose vast sums of money under the present system of business if this rule of Jesus was honestly applied." Do you agree? Why?
24. The small cadre of Christians at the tent were accused by the Rectangle of being "Aristocrats". What is an aristocrat? Is this label deserved when Christians take a stand in society? Explain.
25. The Saloon's victory over the election and Loreen is mourned. But is stopping the saloon the real problem? What are the causes that drive people to the Saloon? How can we, as a church, impact them?

### **Chapter 16-18**

26. Rachel, encouraged by Virginia, feels called to organize a "Musical Institute". This will be her "life's work". Is it possible for people to be *called* to enter business? Can business be considered a *ministry*? Discuss fully.
27. In what way did Rev. Maxwell lay down his life for his fellow man?
28. Jasper Chase, who was one of the original members to take the pledge, fails to do as Jesus would do. Contrast him to the others who took the pledge. Is there anything that led to his failure to do as Jesus would do? Explain.
29. How has Rollin's life been affected by taking the pledge?
30. Do you agree with the author that young professionals are forgotten by our churches? Explain. (You may need to discuss this question with your parents, youth leader, pastor, or a friend who is a young professional!)

### **Chapter 19-20**

31. This chapter (and the next) retells the story up to this point. How long has it been since the pledge was first taken?
32. What has happened to those at First Church who did *not* take the pledge? Why has this happened?
33. What one piece of surprising news is found toward the end of this chapter?
34. Has anyone totally abandoned all possessions? Why or why not?
35. What keeps us from holding "all things in common" like the early disciples? Is this a goal we should have for the church today? Why or why not? (Again, feel free to get input from your parents, youth pastor, and pastor!)

### **Chapter 21-22**

36. How are the sisters, Felicia and Rose, different?
37. What bit of irony does Felicia point out to her sister who is eager to see the drama, *Shadows of London*?

38. Rose seems to allude to (and hide behind) Jesus' comment, "The poor you will always have with you." (Mt. 26:11) Is this a valid defense for not getting involved with the poor? Explain.
39. What impact did *Shadows of London* have on its audience?
40. How is Mr. Sterling portrayed in Chapters 21 and 22?

### **Chapter 23-26**

41. Rose is angry because Dr. Bruce has provoked a disturbance and because Felicia has responded to his "absurd," "fanatical" request. She said the pledge will split the church, why? What reason does she give for not taking the pledge?
42. What was the "triple blow" the Sterlings suffered? Why did Mr. Sterling do what he did? What is the author's explanation?
43. How do Rose and Felicia react to the news and to the changes which later occur? Put yourself in their shoes, would your own reaction to such a tremendous tragedy be more like Rose's or Felicia's? How would Christ react?
44. Both Dr. Bruce and the Bishop feel they are not following Jesus in their current positions. How is it possible to be in full-time ministry and *not* be following Jesus?
45. What is Felicia, a child of privilege, doing now?

### **Chapter 27-29**

46. What is the gospel or "Good News" that the Bishop shares with Burns and his companion in this chapter?
47. In what ways can you relate to Burns sweeping the steps?
48. Dr. Bruce asked Clayton if he thought it was okay for a Christian to rent his property for a saloon. This raises the question, is it okay for a Christian to invest his money in companies which sell tobacco and alcohol (ex. RJR Nabisco, Anheiser-Busch)? In the realm of investments are we quick to let "a little earthly gain tempt [us] into a denial [of Christ]"? Explain. (This is another question that may require input from the spiritual leaders in your life!)
49. Do you think people continue to give what hurts them least? Is charity the giving of worn out garments and toys?
50. Mr. Penrose, a church member, owned the house the dead man lived in. They were noted to be the worst kind. Penrose's daughter asked him, "Do you own any houses the poor live in? Are they warm like ours?" What was his immediate and ultimate response?

### **Chapter 30 -31**

51. During the meeting, a carpenter stood up and asked what the author said was a terrible question. What was the question and what made it so terrible? How would you respond if asked such a question?
52. The crowd listed a number of specific causes for societies' ills. List three of them.
53. Describe what the author calls "nominal Christianity."
54. Out of all the characters in the book, who did you most relate to? Why?
55. What would Jesus do differently in your life than you do?