

English 8 Summer Reading 2010

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

1. Read *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt; do not use an abridged version of any type.
2. At the beginning of the school year, you will be expected to discuss this novel in class and take a test over its contents, characters, plot, themes, etc. As you read this novel, 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 philosophy of the novel reflect or oppose God’s truth? What life lessons can be learned? Be prepared to discuss these and similar questions in English 9.
3. Complete the attached Book Review. It is due on September 7, 2010 (Tuesday after Labor Day).
4. You may reproduce the book review on your computer if you wish to type your answers, or you may choose to write on the log provided. Follow these guidelines:
 - ✍ 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. Write legibly.
 - ✍ Content:
 - Be specific in your answers.
 - Change the question to a statement to begin each answer. Use complete sentences.
5. Respond to a minimum of two Essay Topics (listed on the back of this sheet) with a well-developed paragraph or paragraphs.
These responses will also be due the Tuesday after Labor Day, 9/7/10.
 - ✍ Include a topic/thesis sentence.
 - ✍ Give specific details to support your answers.
 - ✍ Follow formatting guidelines stated under #4.
6. General Guidelines for both the Book Review and the Essay Topics.
 - ✍ Your answers should indicate that you have read the book: be clear and specific! Think before you write!
 - ✍ Avoid second person pronouns: you, your, yours
 - ✍ Use first person pronouns **ONLY** when asked to give an opinion: I, me, my, mine, us, our, ours.
 - ✍ Observe spelling, punctuation, and capitalization rules.
 - ✍ Avoid sentence fragments and run-on sentences.
7. Submit both the Book Review and the Essay Topics in a pronged folder. They may be submitted together on September 7, 2010, or separately on their due dates as stated above.
 - ✍ Title page with your name, class, due date, and signed statement.
I read this book in its entirety OR I read _____ of _____ pages,
Signature _____
 - ✍ Book Review
 - ✍ Essay Topics

BOOK REVIEWS & ESSAY QUESTIONS
are due on or before September 7, 2010 (Tuesday after Labor Day).
If you have any questions, you may email Mrs. Pyles at bpyles@ecsflames.org

English 8 Summer Reading 2010: Essay Topics

Across Five Aprils by Irene Hunt

1. Discuss the author's choice of the title *Across Five Aprils*. Outline the significant events of each April in the novel.
2. Discuss Irene Hunt's use of coffee as a symbol of adulthood in this novel.
3. Describe Jethro's transition from boy to man using specific examples from the story.
4. Select a battle discussed in the novel and research its strategic significance to the North and the South.
5. How might Jethro's transition to manhood have been different if Matt Creighton did not have a heart attack?
6. Discuss Ross Milton's perspective on the war and why he might have those opinions.
7. What motivated Sherman's men to behave so destructively as they moved through the South?
8. Write a historically accurate epilogue to Jethro's story.

Name _____

English 8
September 7, 2010

Across Five Aprils Book Review

Author _____ # of pages _____

Main Characters _____

Introduction: How does the book begin?

Point of View: From whose point of view is this story told? Explain why you think this point of view is best for the story.

List two main characters and briefly describe each one.

Conflict: What were some of the problems that Jethro had to deal with throughout the novel?

Resolution: How did the novel end?

What was your favorite part of the novel? Why?

Identify one of the novel's themes. Why do you think this is a theme?

Would you recommend this book for others to read? Why or why not?
