



6th Grade Brookfield Summer Assignment 2013

Remember, the summer assignment is your first major grade when the school year starts. Get a great start by taking your time and following these tips!

Due date: All summer assignments are due on the first day of school. There will be tests in the following days.

Tips for Making the Most of the Summer Assignment

1. Start early! The assignments should be done a little at a time throughout the summer. DO NOT wait until the last minute. You'll regret it!
2. Choose wisely! Choose a book that you're interested in that you can also read on your own. Don't pick a book that's too easy or hard. Talk to Dr. Tracy if you need help choosing just the right book.
3. Read carefully! Don't just read your book carefully, read the instructions and rubrics carefully! You don't want to skimp on the directions.
4. Get help! I am available all summer by phone (916-896-7275) or e-mail (trinity.tracy@brookfieldschool.org). Don't be shy about asking for help. Don't worry if it seems like a silly question. You will NOT be bugging me. I'd love to hear from you over the summer! I am here to help. 😊

Where to Find the Books

Most of the summer books are easily available at book stores and libraries. Please note that except in cases where you need to annotate the book, ebooks are allowed.

You will need to purchase required books, or check them out again, because you will need them for the beginning of the school year.

Brookfield School Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

SIXTH GRADE

The purpose of the Summer Reading Assignment is to help students keep their skills fresh over the summer, without being an undue burden to busy families. The assignment is intended to be both fun and challenging. The list contains three books: one required, and two chosen from a list. The assignment consists of a study guide, annotation and a report. All assignments are due on the first day of school, and there will be a test on the required book the second week of school. If at any time you have a question, please feel free to call or e-mail Dr. Tracy.

trinity.tracy@brookfieldschool.org or (916) 896-7275

Reading 1: *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes

Assignment: Complete the study guide. There will be a test on the book when school starts.

Reading 2: Nonfiction Book Choice

Choose one of the following and complete the nonfiction book assignment.

Woodsong Gary Paulsen

Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist Jan and Sandra Jordan Greenburg

A Night to Remember Walter Lord

Nonfiction book of your choice (must be approved by Dr. Tracy)

Reading 3: Fiction Book Choice

Choose one of the following and annotate it (see directions).

Little Women Louisa May Alcott

A Wrinkle in Time Madeline L'Engle

The Dark is Rising Susan Cooper

Black Ships Before Troy Rosemary Sutcliff

The Call of the Wild John London

The Witch of Blackbird Pond Speare

Reading 1: *Johnny Tremain* Study Guide

Some of the questions will be easier than others. Do your best and ask for help if you get stuck! Answer on a separate sheet of binder paper. Write neatly. Answers must be handwritten. Remember, some questions have more than one part! *Chapters are Roman Numerals.*

Chapter 1

1. With whom does Johnny live and why?
2. What is special about Isannah?
3. What historical figure and character in the novel asks Mr. Lapham to make a creamer? What else do you know about him?
4. In the novel, there is an allusion to a wealthy family to whom Johnny might be related. Why is this fact mentioned?
5. In a conversation with Cilla, Johnny relates the story of his mother and how he came to be in possession of the cup. What does the reader learn from that story?

Chapter 2

1. What occupation do Mr. Lapham and Paul Revere share? How are they different as masters of that profession?
2. Who are Dove and Dusty, and why does Johnny boss them around?
3. Describe and characterize the relationship between Johnny and Dove.
4. In order for Johnny to finish the sugar basin in time, he must disobey Mr. Lapham and break a law. He must also have the help of other members of the house. Describe what he does.
5. What happens to Johnny's hand, and how does it happen?
6. While Johnny's hand is healing, he stays in the "birth and death room." In terms of Johnny's life, what might the birth and death room symbolize?
7. When Johnny discovers his hand is crippled, how does he react? Cite an example from the text to support your answer.
8. After Johnny injures his hand, what becomes of his dream to become a silversmith?
9. What does Mr. Lapham ask Johnny to do for Dove in regards to the accident? How does Johnny react to this request?
10. Explain the significance of the title of this chapter, "The Pride of Your Power." How does the title apply to Johnny?

Chapter 3

1. Give three examples of places where Johnny tries to find work. What is Johnny's attitude when he asks for work? What is the masters' first reaction to Johnny? What is the ultimate outcome and why?
2. Who is Mr. Tweedie?
3. What is the name the newspaper where Johnny meets Rab, and what does Johnny know about the newspaper?
4. How do Rab and Johnny get along when they first meet?
5. How does Johnny treat Mr. Tweedie? Why do you suppose he acts this way?
6. Johnny seeks work in the accounting office of John Hancock. After adding a few sums for Mr. Hancock, Mr. Hancock seems to be ready to offer Johnny work. What happens to change Mr. Hancock's mind?
7. How does Johnny spend the charity money John Hancock gives him?

8. What does Johnny give to Isannah, and what is her reaction at first?
9. When Johnny begins to pick up Isannah, how does she react? What is Johnny's response?
10. Where does Johnny fall asleep? Before he falls asleep, what does he decide to do the next morning?
11. Explain the significance of this chapter's title, "An Earth of Brass."

Chapter 4

1. This chapter is titled "The Rising Eye." What significance does the title hold?
2. Before Mr. Lyte can completely stifle the young clerk, what does the clerk start to say after Johnny describes his cup? What might be significant about his statement?
3. Before Johnny shows Lyte the cup, about what do Johnny and Mr. Lyte argue?
4. What is Rab's opinion of Lyte?
5. What does Rab give to Johnny for his visit to the Lytes' house?
6. In no less than a paragraph, describe the events between Johnny and Mr. Lyte that eventually lead to Johnny's arrest when he goes to the Lyte home to discuss his relationship with the family.
7. Who are the Sons of Liberty and what significance do they have at this point in the story?
8. In court, who testifies and saves Johnny? What is the testimony?

Chapter 5

1. Johnny knows that his cup is worth four pounds on the open market but figures he can get twenty pounds for it from Mr. Lyte. What happens when Johnny goes to Lyte's office? What is revealed about Mr. Lyte's character?
2. When Johnny leaves Lyte's office, to whom does he go for guidance and support?
3. Under what circumstances is Johnny able to begin a new life?
4. Because Johnny is delivering for *The Boston Observer*, where is he able to live?
5. After Johnny begins living with the Lornes, he sees Cilla and Isannah at the town pump. Why are they there? How does Johnny feel about seeing them?
6. What plan do Cilla and Johnny make?
7. Johnny has a particular fault within himself in which he is quite disappointed. State the fault and give two examples of when Johnny demonstrates it.
8. Rab questions Johnny, "Why do you go out of your way to make bad feeling?" (Pg. 109) What valuable lesson does Johnny learn from Rab? How does the lesson pay off for Johnny when he visits Sam Adams?
9. Johnny admires Rab because he practices self-control; however, on two occasions Rab loses his composure. Describe the two occasions.
10. After the incident with the butcher and his family, what does Johnny notice about Rab?
11. Johnny spends much of his time with his bad hand in his pocket. How is Johnny's behavior at the dance different?
12. Why are the girls' reactions to his hand surprising for Johnny?
13. When Johnny explains his surprise to Rab, how does Rab respond?

Chapter 6

1. What concessions does England make for the American colonies?
2. Why do the colonists protest the tax?
3. In the second paragraph of this chapter, why does the narrator say, "Wouldn't they [Americans] care more for their pocketbooks than their principles?" (Pg. 114)

4. What does Sam Adams come to tell Rab and Johnny?
5. What does Sam Adams want Mr. Lorne and Johnny to do?
6. Why does Sam Adams say to Rab's uncle, "Without you printers the cause of liberty would be lost forever"? (Pg. 115)
7. What is the name of the group that will meet to discuss the current problems with the teaships?
8. Why is there no list of members for the Observers' Club? List at least three people Johnny contacts about the meeting.
9. When Johnny tells those of the Observers' Club that they owe eight shillings for the newspaper, what message is he really relaying?
10. As Johnny is delivering his message to members of the Observers' Club, with what does he become preoccupied?
11. Why is Mr. Lyte excluded from those who get the message about the meeting, and why is this unusual?
12. Before Johnny makes his last stop, he runs in to Cilla and Isannah. What does he notice about them?
13. Who are the Torries?
14. What do the Torries say about Sam Adams and his influence over John Hancock?
15. At the Patriots' meeting, what does the Observers' Club decide to do with the tea ships?
16. What does the Observers' Club enlist Rab to do?
17. Why does Johnny believe he is not included?
18. What must Johnny learn to do in order to be one of the men to board the ships?
19. When the evening arrives for the ships to either return to London or the tea will be dumped, what important job does Johnny have?
20. When Johnny is waiting to hear Sam Adams speak, why is he worried?
21. How are the men who were to board the ships disguised, and why is it important to keep their identities anonymous?
22. Why is Rab upset when he learns that Dove is stealing tea?

Chapter 7

1. How do the British react to the Boston Tea Party?
2. What effect does this punishment have on the thirteen colonies? How does Sam Adams react?
3. What will happen to the members of the Observers' Club if their names are known?
4. Describe how the atmosphere in Boston changes, almost on a daily basis.
5. Why is Rab so keen on getting a gun?
6. When a British soldier knocks Rab in the head, what does Johnny notice about the troops' behavior that seems contradictory?
7. How does Johnny create a connection with the British medical man, and how may this connection prove to be important?
8. How does Boston receive food? Give examples from the text.
9. Of whom is Johnny jealous and why? What occasion sparks the jealousy?
10. Where are Cilla and Isannah sent? How does Cilla seem to have changed?
11. Why does Dove think that he and Johnny might be friends now?
12. What trick does Johnny use to avoid losing his horse?
13. After Johnny plays the trick on the lieutenant, how is he treated by the other stable boys? How do they treat Dove?

14. How have Johnny's feelings changed about Dove, Mrs. Lapham, and Cilla? Find a quote to support your answer for each person.
15. In his visit to the Lapham house, why does Johnny conclude that he died in the birthing room?
16. Why does Johnny feel Miss Bessie's disrespectful attitude toward Lavinia Lyte is a bad omen?
17. How does Lavinia Lyte treat Cilla and Isannah differently?
18. In what way does Miss Bessie help Johnny?

Chapter 8

1. Whose house is broken into?
2. Where does Cilla want to go?
3. Who goes with Cilla to the Lyte home, and what do they do to ensure their safety?
4. What does Johnny find in the house that helps him, and how does it help?
5. What is suggested by the title of Chapter 8: *A World to Come*?
6. As Johnny and Cilla return from the Lyte home, what does Johnny observe about the Minute Men?
7. What do Rab and Johnny spend much time discussing?
8. What happens to Rab when he meets the farmer who sells guns to Minute Men?
9. What is a typical punishment that the British will give people (besides the gallows)?
10. Why is Rab released without punishment?
11. What is the significance of the apple Cilla gives Johnny?
12. At the final collective meeting of the Observers' Club, what do the men discuss?
13. Summarize the arguments/positions of each of the following men: Sam Adams, James Otis, Joseph Warren, and Paul Revere.
14. What phrase does James Otis use that seems to summarize the cause for which the colonies are fighting and what does it mean?

Chapter 9

1. Describe the spy system organized by Paul Revere?
2. Why is Dove more important to Johnny?
3. What important information does Johnny get from Lydia?
4. Why does Johnny ride less for the British?
5. How do Johnny and Rab get Dove to reveal the British military secrets?
6. What do Rab and Johnny learn?
7. What must Johnny do for Dove because Dove is too intoxicated to return to the British?
8. Because Johnny is the one who prepares the horses, what opportunity is he given?
9. Who is Pumpkin and what does he tell Johnny that he wants to do?
10. How does Johnny get a musket for Rab?
11. What eventually happens to Pumpkin?
12. Describe the atmosphere in the colonies now that spring is approaching.
13. When Johnny refers to the "eight cruel eyes," to what is he referring? (Pg. 212)
14. What effect does Pumpkin's death have on Johnny's image of himself?

Chapter 10

1. What is unusual about April 14 and April 15?
2. What does Paul Revere decide to do in light of the confusing situation the British are presenting, and how does he plan to do it?
3. How does Johnny react to Rab's decision to leave?
4. Johnny gains information from Dove a second time. What information does Dove reveal, and what does Johnny infer from the information?
5. Why does Billy Dawes pretend he is a drunk?
6. Why does the narrator say that Billy Dawes is not the only gifted actor in the family?
7. Explain the phrase, "One if by land, two if by sea."

Chapter 11

1. Where did the war begin and what is the outcome?
2. How are the colonists responding?
3. What is Johnny's immediate concern when he hears men have been killed in Lexington?
4. What is the author describing with the phrase "like a river of blood"? (Pg. 233) What does the phrase suggest?
5. What does the flag of England represent?
6. How does the flag mean something different to those who do not live in England?
7. What image is used to describe the British soldiers as they march through the streets?
8. What song does the British use to insult the colonists, and why is it insulting?
9. As the British go through Boston to arrest rebels, how is Mr. Lorne saved?
10. Before she goes to London, what does Lavinia Lyte tell Johnny?
11. In London, what does Lavinia Lyte want Isannah to become?
12. When Bessie asks Johnny if he is a boy or a man, what is his response? What does the response say about life?
13. For what personal reason is Johnny eager to get to Lexington?

Chapter 12

1. Why is Johnny able to walk and talk with British soldiers without being noticed?
2. Why are the townspeople in the shadows whistling "Yankee Doodle"?
3. How does Johnny get to Charleston?
4. How does Johnny describe the difference between the way the British and Colonial soldiers look?
5. What happens to Rab, and how does Johnny find out?
6. What does Johnny believe at the end of the story, and how does his belief relate to James Otis and the chapter title?
7. Why does the message in the last two and a half pages have as much importance and urgency in 1942, when the book was written, as it did in 1776?
8. How is Johnny changed over the course of the novel?
9. What is suggested about Johnny's immediate future?

Reading 2: 6th Grade Nonfiction Book Assignment



You will read one of the nonfiction books from the list to complete this assignment. Your assignment must be typed.

Woodsong Gary Paulsen

Vincent Van Gogh: Portrait of an Artist Jan and Sandra Jordan Greenburg

A Night to Remember Walter Lord

Nonfiction book of your choice (must be approved by Dr. Tracy)

Book Information

Include the following: Title, Author, Genre (science, history, biography, and so on)

Publisher and year, Number of pages

Summary

Write a 2-3 paragraph summary of the important parts of the book. If it is about a person, be sure to include details from each part of the person's life that is included.

Response

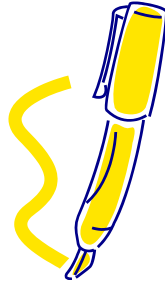
Write a 1-2 paragraph response to the nonfiction book you read. Describe your favorite part, your least favorite part, how the writer's style impacted your reading, and anything else you responded to.

Recommendation

Write a 1-2 paragraph recommendation for the book. Who would like to read it? Include why you did or did not like the book, and whether or not you'd like to read other books like it.

Type your nonfiction assignment and turn it in on the first day of school. Proofread carefully!

Reading 3: Fiction Book Choice



You are going to read and annotate a fiction book of your choice from this list.

Little Women Louisa May Alcott

A Wrinkle in Time Madeline L'Engle

The Dark is Rising Susan Cooper

Black Ships Before Troy Rosemary Sutcliff

The Call of the Wild John London

The Witch of Blackbird Pond Speare

Directions:

Once you choose your book, get a yellow highlighter and a pencil.

As you read, highlight a few sentences or words per page that seem important to you. DO NOT highlight the whole book! You should carefully choose important parts.

Look for important things about the setting, characters, plot, and theme.

Try to write comments in pencil. You can write comments at the beginning and end of each chapter, or in the middle of the chapter.

Don't worry about following a specific pattern or color coding. This is just to get you used to the idea of reading carefully, and writing in your book!

Bring your annotated book to class on the first day of school. There will be a test on your book.