

2016 SCPA Summer Reading – Grade 9 and 9AA

Students entering the 9th grade at SCPA (for the 2016-17 school year) must complete the following assignments to fulfill their Summer Reading requirements for English 9 and English 9 AA. All work is due no later than Friday, August 19th. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 17th.

Reading

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey (ISBN-13: 9780684856094)-English 9 and 9AA

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Workbook by Sean Covey (ISBN-13: 978-1929494170)- English 9 and 9AA

*Students will need **both** the book and the companion workbook. We will continue to use the books throughout the school year.

Both are red and denim. There are others, so please be careful that you have the right one.

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls (ISBN-13: 9780743247542)-English 9 and 9AA

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (ISBN-13: 978-0749717100)-**English 9AA ONLY**

Assignments

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens (This book will be used throughout the school year.)

- 1) Respond to the quote: *If who I am is what I have and what I have is lost, then who am I?* (Use your own paper and be very thoughtful about your response.)
- 2) Read Part 1: The Set-up in the book (“Get in the Habit” and “Paradigms and Principles”).
- 3) Complete all activities for Part I in the teen workbook (“Take the Plunge” p.2, “Get in the Habit” p.3 and “Paradigms and Principles” p. 4-7).

The Glass Castle

- 1) Read the novel in its entirety. (Note-taking is optional but encouraged, as it will prove useful when writing the essay.)
- 2) Answer all discussion questions (found on the back of this assignment sheet.) Please write all answers on your own paper. Be prepared to participate in class discussions with your thoughts, ideas and opinions.

Of Mice and Men (English 9AA Only)

- 1) Read the novel in its entirety. (Note-taking is optional but encouraged.)
- 2) Provide a quote from *Of Mice and Men* for each literary device listed on the handout.

*There will be a test over this novel during the first week (or so) of the school year. We will have in-class discussion (Seminar) about it in the first few days of school. This novel will also serve as a springboard into our Independent Reading Novel Study - specifically novels that have been banned...of which *Of Mice and Men* is one.

Have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you on August 17th.

Mrs. Jennifer Ehlers

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(I really do check my email during the summer, though it will be sporadic some weeks.)

The Glass Castle: Discussion Topics

(Please answer on your own paper. These questions will be used for Seminar on Friday, August 26th.

They will be turned in for a grade with your test.)

1. The Wells children are by far more mature, responsible, reliable and sensible than their parents. They protect and take care of themselves, each other, and even their parents. And yet, according to the law they are underage, and therefore dependent on their parents.

Is it time to examine children's rights? Should some children be granted more rights at an earlier age? Answer and explain.

2. Throughout the book we hear Rose Mary's complaint: "I'm a grown woman now, why can't I do what I want to do?" (74).

At what point can adults do whatever they want, if at all?

3. When Jeannette describes Grandma Smith, she remembers a woman who "had strong opinions about the way things ought to be done – how to dress, how to talk, how to organize your time, how to cook and keep house, how to manage your finances..." (91), and says she loved her and all of her rules. However, Rose Mary, Grandma Smith's daughter, felt that her mother "nagged and badgered" and that was the reason that she, herself, never set rules for her own kids.

To what extent are rules necessary for children's healthy development and to what extent are they restricting and limiting? Are some rules freeing? Do parents sometimes get so caught up in their own rules that they forget their children will one day be adults?

4. Mom's big dream is to be an artist, and she spends all of her time and the little money the family has on art supplies. Whenever the family moves, her paints and canvases move, too. When the family tours Welch, a rundown city with sad people, Mom sees the bright side – she will be the only artist around. She never gives up on her dream.

Is there a point when it is time for one to give up one's dream? When, why? Answer and explain.

5. On one hand Jeannette Walls describes the squalor she and her family lived in: hunger, poverty, garbage, lack of basic necessities. On the other, she describes the rich intellectual world her parents imparted: discussions of geology, math, literature, art.

In light of the fact that three out of the four Walls children became successful, productive members of society, what do you think is more important to children's development: comfortable living conditions or an enriching intellectual environment? Answer and explain.

6. Everyone on Little Hobart Street in Welch is poor, and "everyone grudgingly accepted some form of public aid." The Walls, however, refused any kind of help, although they were the poorest family on the street. Jeannette says, "Mom and Dad never applied for welfare or food stamps, and they always refused charity" (159).

Why did the parents refuse any help? Should they have taken food stamps? Is it more important to have pride or to have food? Did the refusal of food stamps and charity contribute to the children's ultimate independence and self-motivation? Answer and explain.

7. Mom says that welfare "would cause irreparable psychological damage" to the kids. "Once you go on welfare, it changes you. Even if you get off welfare, you never escape the stigma that you were a charity case. You're scarred for life" (188).

What does Mom mean when she says, "you're scarred for life"? Do you agree that being on welfare can cause "irreparable psychological damage"? Answer and explain.

Respond to each of the following topics – personally and as each relates to the book: depression, agoraphobia, bullying, racism, prejudice, abuse, welfare, charity, poverty, alcoholism, parenting, responsibility, creativity

Literary Device	Definition	Example from <i>Of Mice and Men</i>
Metaphor	A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things without using the words "like" or "as"	
Extended metaphor	A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things at some length and in several ways without using the words "like" or "as"	
Simile	A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things using the words "like" or "as"	
Personification	A figure of speech in which human traits or abilities are attributed to an object, animal, or idea	
Onomatopoeia	Words that sound like the sounds they represent (buzz, meow, pow, crunch)	
Hyperbole	Exaggeration used for emphasis or humorous effect	
Idiom	An expression that has meaning different from the literal meaning of its individual words	
Repetition	A technique in which a sound, word, phrase, or sentence is repeated for effect	
Symbol	A person, place, activity, or object that stands for something beyond itself	