

JWJ

A College Prep Middle School

2013- 2014 Summer Reading

Summer Reading for Language Arts:

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

Welcome, 6th graders, to James Weldon Johnson Middle School!

Welcome to the language arts program at James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School! We would like to help you better succeed by providing you with some pre-reading, during-reading and post (after) reading strategies. Attached to this letter, you will find a study guide that includes the following materials:

- Directions for using the reading guide
- Information on Dialect and helpful vocabulary
- **Three Assignments:** (*Pages 5-7 of this packet will be due at the start of the school year.*)
 1. Pre-Reading Questions (p. 5)
 2. During Reading Activity (p. 6)
 3. After Reading Summary/Connections (p.7)
- Documentation for additional books read over the summer.



****What is due when school begins?****

- ✓ **Pages 5-7 of this packet**
- ✓ **Any additional summer reading documentation.**
(See page 9 for the correct format.)

The packet was designed to guide you through your reading of the novel Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry and introduce you to some of the strategies that will help you be more successful readers.

Because we will be working with the book when you first come to school, we ask that you keep your copy of the book until we are finished with it. You will have a test over the book, also, and it would be helpful if you had the book available to review and study.

We hope you enjoy this wonderful book, and we look forward to meeting you in the fall.

Sincerely yours,

*The Sixth Grade Language Arts Teachers
James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School*



DIRECTIONS FOR USING THIS READING GUIDE

BEFORE READING THE BOOK:

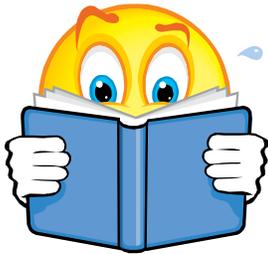
- ★ Read over the Helpful Vocabulary to become familiar with the new words you are going to encounter while reading the book.
- ★ **Complete Assignment 1:** Read the Pre-Reading Questions and write a short answer for each one.

WHILE YOU ARE READING THE BOOK:

- ★ Use the Helpful Vocabulary any time you come across a word you don't recognize or are not sure of.
- ★ **Complete Assignment 2:** Following the directions, answer the During Reading Activity questions.

AFTER YOU FINISH READING THE BOOK:

- ★ **Complete Assignment 3:** Complete the Response Form summarizing the book.



The last page of this packet is the form you complete for any book you read this summer *in addition to those required by JWJ*. Complete this form for each one in order to document pages which will count toward your 25 Book Standard for the 2012-2013 school year.

DIALECT

**Keep in mind as you read Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry that the characters are often using different dialect than what you are used to, since the setting is in 1930's Mississippi. The author, Mildred D. Taylor, did this on purpose to try to make the book as authentic as possible. If you come to words or phrases that do not make sense, try reading them aloud, as often you can hear the dialect that is being spoken by the characters.

Examples of dialect used in the book:

“Ya’ll go ahead and get dirty if y’all wanna,” he replied without even looking up from his studied steps. (pg. 4)

“I betcha Mama’s gonna ‘clean’ you, you keep it up,” I grumbled. (pg 4)

“I betch I could give y’all an earful ‘bout that burnin’ last night.” (pg. 9)

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry Helpful Vocabulary

Pg. #	Word	Part of Speech	Definition
3	Meticulously	Adv.	to excessively make sure that details are perfect
4	Concession	Verb	the act of giving in or yielding
4	Exasperation	Noun	the act of being frustrated
5	Raucous	Adj.	describes a loud and noisy gathering
6	Pensive	Adj.	thoughtful; deep in thought
6	Trudge	Verb	to walk or march steadily and usually with much effort
11	Morosely	Adv.	being gloomy or sad
15	Knell	Verb	tolling, like a bell
15	Loitering	Verb	to remain in an area for no obvious reason
15	Tormentor	Noun	a person who picks on someone else excessively
17	Scowl	Verb	showing displeasure with your facial expression
22	Monotonously	Adv.	said in one voice; not changing
23	Temerity	Noun	foolhardy disregard of danger
24	Indignant	Adj.	showing anger because of something unjust
28	Chignon	Noun	a knot of hair, like a bun; a hairstyle
31	Imperiously	Adv.	acting as if you are better than someone else
36	Ornate	Adj.	elaborately or excessively decorated
40	Lynched	Verb	put to death by a mob, usually by hanging, without legal authority
42	Resiliency	Noun	ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change
43	Seep	Verb	to flow or pass slowly through small openings; ooze
49	Relent	Verb	to give in to something
51	Oblivious	Adj.	not aware of what is going on around ones self
54	Dismayed	Verb	to lose courage due to alarm or fear
59	Engross	Verb	to be paying deep attention to something or someone
64	Adamantly	Adv.	Impervious to pleas, appeals, or reason
72	Admonish	Verb	express warning or disapproval
72	Discourse	Noun	communication of thought by words
74	Feign	Verb	to fake or act like you are doing or feeling something
77	Aloof	Adj.	to detach ones self from other; to be alone
82	Interject	Verb	to throw something in, especially a thought
86	Falter	Verb	to walk unsteadily; to hesitate
88	Subtle	Adj.	faint or delicate; not always clearly different
89	Vaguely	Adj.	not clearly or explicitly stated or expressed
93	Emphatic	Adj.	emphasis on or stress toward something
98	Patronize	Verb	to show dislike for someone
98	Proprietor	Noun	the person who owns something
103	Subdued	Adj.	lacking intensity or strength
104	Envision	Verb	to picture or foresee
107	Mercantile	Noun	a place to buy many different goods (example today: Walmart or Target)
112	Malevolent	Adj.	something done out of spite, ill will, or hatred.
119	Bridge	Verb	to cross over or make a way to bring things together

124	Ominously	Adv.	having the sense that something bad is about to happen
137	Languidly	Adv.	slowly or sluggishly
143	Apprehensive	Adj.	afraid, or nervous, of what might happen in the future
144	Interminable	Adj.	seeming to have no end
160	Placid	Adj.	free of interruption or disturbance
161	Affirmation	Noun	a positive declaration; agreement
161	Candidly	Adj.	free from bias or prejudice
168	Condone	Verb	to treat something bad as acceptable
179	Sauntered	Verb	to walk about in an idle or leisurely manner
186	Reassurance	Noun	giving someone confidence
209	Rile	Verb	to make someone agitated or angry
212	Pneumonia	Noun	an illness that fills the lungs with fluid
223	Despondently	Adv.	doing something showing extreme discouragement
229	Reproachfully	Adv.	expressing disapproval
233	Scheme	Noun	a plan, especially a sneaky plan
249	Despicable	Adj.	disliked because of being worthless or obnoxious
254	Crescendo	Noun	gradual increase in noise
266	Acrid	Adj.	sharp and harsh or unpleasant taste or smell
271	Flimsy	Adj.	easily bent; not strong

ASSIGNMENT 1: To be completed *before* you read.

PRE-READING STRATEGY: QUESTION

****Write a two or three sentence response to each question in the spaces provided.****

1. Have you ever had something unfair happen to you? What happened?
2. What is segregation? Do you know of any specific examples of segregation? Explain.
3. What is loyalty? What does it mean to be loyal?
4. What is “historical fiction”? How do you know that something is historical fiction and not nonfiction?
5. Read the title and back of the book. Based on what you have read, do you think you’ll enjoy this book? Why or why not?

ASSIGNMENT 2: To be completed *during* your reading.

During Reading Activity
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Answer each of these responses on your own sheet of paper using a complete paragraph. Make sure to use specific, direct quotes from the text (including page number) to support your answers.

Chapters	
1-3	<p>Characterization: In the beginning of this story, the author gives us a wonderful introduction to Cassie Logan and her three brothers, Stacey, Christopher-John, and Little Man, as well as their friends T.J. and Claude. As you read, notice how she reveals each child's character. How are they similar? How are they different?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4-6	<p>Setting: Most of the action in the story takes place at Cassie's home or the school. However, in chapter 5 the story takes us away from Cassie's home to the town of Strawberry. What do you notice about Strawberry: the sights, the sounds, the people? How does Cassie's first visit to Strawberry change her view of life?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
7-8	<p>Flashback: A flashback is a scene that describes an event that occurred before the time in which the main story is set. A flashback might be presented as a dream, through dialogue, or a character's recollection. An example is when Big Ma remembers how her husband, Paul Edward, bought the Logan land. What flashback is presented in chapter 7? Which character presented it? How does it help us to better understand the character's point of view on the Logans' situation?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
9-12	<p>Climax: A climax is the highest point of excitement or interest in a story, and is sometimes the turning point for the entire story. What is the climax of the story and why do you think that this is the climax?</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Summer Reading Book Responses

(Documenting books *other* than your required summer reading.)

Instructions:

While reading other books this summer you will need to gather the following information for every book you read:

- Title
- Author
- Genre
- # of pages
- One paragraph of summary consisting of 7 sophisticated sentences
- One paragraph of connections consisting of 7 sophisticated sentences. (These can be connections to self, to the world or other texts)

Total, this should be $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 full page in length (1 side of a sheet of paper equals 1 page)

You may use the form that is on the following page or your own paper.

We hope you will read 1,350 pages during the months of May, June, July, and August, so you will be on track for reading 3,750 pages (25 books) in a calendar year.

