

PILLOW ACADEMY 2018 SUMMER READING

2018 Pillow Academy Summer Reading 7th Reading - 7th Grade



Two Books

Required Reading:

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

- Each 7th Reading student is required to read the above novels and complete the correlating questions.
- A comprehension test will be given on this novel during the first week of instruction of the new school year.
- Be prepared to turn in all questions on the first day of instruction.

Book of Choice:

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Call of the Wild by Jack London

- Each 7th Reading student is required to choose ONE additional novel to read.
- Students must write a short summary for each chapter (7-10 sentences) which will be turned in on the first day of instruction.
- A written essay test will be assigned for this book. (Topic will be given on test day).

You will be tested on the assigned books as well as your book of choice during the first week of school. The tests will vary in format. One book will also serve as the basis for an essay assignment. You may find it helpful to take margin notes as you read. Pay attention to the author's style and purpose, characterization, symbols, themes, setting, and tone. Think about whether or not these books remind you of other books you have read. Finally, consider how the main character's conflict or dilemma may be a commentary on a larger issue by the author.

Please Note: Summer reading selections are chosen based on literary merit and with high academic standards in mind. The books assigned by the English department at Pillow Academy represent a mix of classic and contemporary literature. Many books address complex situations and may contain adult themes and language. Pillow Academy recognizes that a particular work may be objectionable to a student or parent but further believes that exposure to these literary works far outweighs the benefit of censorship. The attempt to expose students to challenging topics and issues is intended to serve as opportunities for students to think, theorize, question, and explore.

The Outsiders
by S.E. Hinton

7th Grade Reading

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The following questions are to help students read and comprehend the book. These questions will be used as a basis of discussion the first few days of school. A test on this book will be given during the first week of school.

Answer the following questions. All work should be written, not typed. Answers should be in complete sentences with correct spelling. It is not necessary to rewrite the questions, but answers MUST be written on notebook paper (not college ruled paper). Questions will be turned in on the first full day of school.

1. How is Ponyboy different from other members of his gang?
2. How are the first person point of view and the Soc attack on Ponyboy effective in introducing characters and giving background information?
3. Who are the Socs? Describe them.
4. How are the Greasers different from the Socs?
5. Compare Ponyboy's brothers, Darry and Sodapop.
6. What evidence is there of a tension between Ponyboy and Darry?
7. Why does Ponyboy accept but dislike Steve?
8. What is Two-Bit's outstanding characteristic?
9. Why is Ponyboy's comparison of Johnny to a puppy a good analogy?
10. At the drive-in, Dallas harasses Cherry and Marcia. How is this choice of amusement a reflection of his character?
11. Ponyboy and Dallas are shocked when Johnny orders Dallas to leave Cherry alone. What motivates Johnny to give the order? Why does Dallas obey him?
12. Evaluate why Cherry and Ponyboy communicate rather openly despite the gap in their social positions.
13. What qualities of Darry's and Ponyboy's causes them to conflict?
14. Immediately after his visit with Cherry, Ponyboy expresses bitterness towards the Socs. If Ponyboy has developed a certain respect for Cherry, why does he feel such bitterness?
15. Why does Ponyboy run away when Darry slaps him?
16. What details and earlier events make Bob's murder plausible?
17. Why do Johnny and Ponyboy turn to Dallas for help?
18. Why is Ponyboy upset about getting his hair cut and bleached?

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19. Explain why it is ironic that Johnny and Ponyboy are involved in a murder.
20. Johnny compares Dallas to a southern gentleman. Why is this ironic? How does Johnny defend his comparison?
21. Why does Johnny's remark about the sunrise remind Ponyboy of Robert Frost's poem?
22. What is Sodapop's position in Ponyboy's conflict with Darry?
23. What is Cherry's rationale for aiding the greasers?
24. Johnny informs Dallas and Ponyboy that he and Ponyboy are turning themselves in. What are Johnny's reasons?
25. Johnny and Ponyboy feel personally responsible for the safety of the children in the church. Why? Is it consistent with their characters? Why?
26. Why was saving the children the only time in Johnny's life he didn't have a defeated, mistrustful look?
27. What function in the story does Jerry Wood serve?
28. Why does Darry's crying have such a profound effect upon Ponyboy?
29. Why does Randy decide not to participate in the rumble?
30. Ponyboy admits that he doesn't like to fight. Why then is it so important to him to participate in the rumble?
31. Cherry seems similar qualities in Bob and Dallas. What are those qualities?
32. Compare Tim Shephard's gang to Ponyboy's gang.
33. Why is it significant that Paul Holden is the Soc who steps forward to accept Darry's challenge?
34. Dallas chooses to die. Why? Why is his manner of death so gallant?
35. Why won't Ponyboy believe that Johnny is dead?
36. During the hearing, what is the judge aware of that Ponyboy is not?
37. In the days following the hearing, Ponyboy and Darry continue to have disagreements. Explain why Sodapop bolts from the room during a fight between Ponyboy and Darry.