

7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Students,

*Over the summer you are required to read the historical fiction novel *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes. In addition to reading the novel, you are to answer the attached questions and submit them to me upon your return to school in August.*

Answers to questions may be handwritten in cursive or typed. All answers must be in complete sentences, using correct grammar, spelling, and mechanics. In addition to completion of the questions, you will be assigned a culminating activity which will be due the first full week of school.

Please note the novel is 12 chapters in length and the questions require time and thought. Pace yourself throughout the summer, and do not wait until the last minute to complete the assignment.

Enjoy reading this fictional account of the beginnings of our great country!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Verrett

Johnny Tremain

Before you read:

1. What personal qualities or accomplishments are you proud of? What are some of the positive effects of pride? What are some of the negative effects of pride?
2. Jot down memories of a situation in which you or someone else felt proud. Think about the positive and negative effects of that pride. Then create a two-column chart listing those effects.

Chapters 1-5

1. Johnny's accident changes his life in many ways—physically, practically, and emotionally. As you read the first five chapters of Johnny's story, notice what these changes are and how he reacts to them. List details that show the contrast between Johnny's life before and after the accident. Use a T-Bar or Venn diagram.
2. What is your opinion of Johnny before the accident? Does your opinion of Johnny change after the accident? If so, how? How do you think you might react in Johnny's situation? What advice would you give to him?
3. What happens to change Johnny's position in the family? What role does Dove play in this event? How does Johnny react to his new status?
4. What obstacles does Johnny face as he tries to redirect his life? How does Johnny's friend Rab help him? How does their friendship change Johnny?
5. Compare and contrast the daily lives of teenagers in Johnny's world with the lives of teenagers in your own community. Use a Venn diagram.
6. Evaluate the tactics that the Sons of Liberty use to further their cause. Do you think such tactics are justified? Why or why not?

Before you read:

1. Do you think it is fair to expect people to pay taxes when they cannot vote for those who impose the taxes? Give reasons for your answer.

Chapters 6-8.

1. In these chapters, Johnny becomes involved in some important historical events. What aspect of his involvement made the strongest impression on you? Explain your choice.
2. Does the idea of playing a personal role in historical events appeal to you? Why or why not?

3. Explain the British tax on colonial tea. What response is planned by Sam Adams and the other Observers? How does Johnny help implement these plans?
4. Describe Johnny's relationships with Cilla, Lavinia Lyte, and Dove now that Johnny is living with Rab and his family. What do these relationships reveal about Johnny and his personal growth?
5. Do you think the Bostonians are justified in their reaction to the tax on tea? Why or why not? Do you think Britain's response is fair? Explain.
6. In your opinion, is Rab a good friend to Johnny? Give reasons for your answer.

Before you read:

1. Do you think that an individual can play an important role in historical events? Do you think that a small number of people who are deeply committed to a cause have the power to change the course of history? Why or why not?

Chapters 9-12.

1. Think about Esther Forbes's statement that she "wanted to give Johnny room enough to change and grow." Do you think she succeeded? Why or why not?
2. What are some ways that the Patriots prepare for war? How would you describe the mood between Bostonians and the British troops occupying their city?
3. Explain how the Minute Men learn of the British army's actual battle plans. What do these efforts reveal about the Patriots' commitment to independence?
4. Summarize what happens after Johnny finds Rab at Lexington. At the end of the novel, what decision does Johnny make about his future? What does this decision reveal about the Patriots' commitment to independence?
5. Summarize what happens after Johnny finds Rab at Lexington. At the end of the novel, what decision does Johnny make about his future? What does this decision reveal about his values and character?
6. How does the author create suspense during the final chapters of the novel?
7. According to Johnny, at sixteen he is "A boy in time of peace and a man in time of war." Do you agree with this statement? Do you think more is expected of young people when a country is at war? Explain.