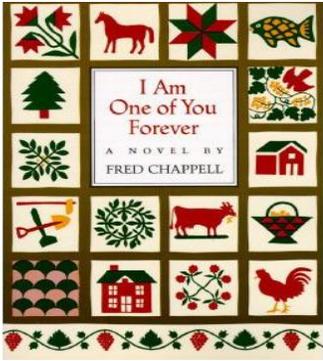


Millennium Charter Academy's 8th Grade Summer Reading



REQUIRED: *I Am One of You Forever: A Novel by Fred Chappell* (ISBN-10: 0807114103)

“Fred Chappell’s *I Am One of You Forever* is a perfect balance of fantasy, tall tale, and fact. Written in extraordinarily lucid prose, this novel describes the experiences of a boy growing up in North Carolina in the 1940s. Through a series of family vignettes that circle a central unspoken tragedy, Chappell combines dramatic and lyrical talents to produce a high-spirited elegy.”

– Thomas Carlson, *Southern Magazine*

DIRECTIONS: Please type or neatly hand-write the following assignments in black or blue ink and submit on 8 ½ x 11 composition or printed paper. Answer each question in paragraph form and please answer with your best writing skills. Spelling, grammar, and syntax will count towards determining your grade. Please include your full first and last name in a header in the upper left hand corner of your first page.

DUE: These assignments will be due on **Monday, August 27, 2018.**

English Assignment – due to Mr. Rezzo:

- **Cover Art and Quote:** Choose your favorite chapter from the book. On an 8.5x11 piece of paper, illustrate a cover for this story that captures the main topic and meaning of that vignette. The cover should include the chapter title, colored-illustrations/images, and one quote of four lines or less that captures the essence of the chapter.
- **Poem:** Choose a **different** chapter and find a particularly vivid piece of imagery from that chapter. Write out that quote and create a descriptive poem of your own based off of that quote.

Then, choose **one** of the following three options.

- Plot Analysis:** Choose another **different** chapter that you enjoyed. Perform a plot analysis of that chapter by describing the elements of fiction listed below. Then write one quote for each that shows that element in the chapter. Then explain each quote and how the author depicts that element in the chapter.
 - a. Setting/Culture/Historical Background
 - b. Conflict(s)
 - c. Climax
 - d. Resolution
- Character Analysis:** Consider the various eccentric characters from the story—**not** including Jess. Choose one and write a well-written paragraph about their strengths and their weaknesses as seen through their actions, speech, and thoughts. **MUST** use at least two quotes from the story to support your answer. One quote from the character themselves and one quote from another character talking about your chosen character.
- Hero’s Journey:** Jess’ journey can be interpreted as a series of zany ups and downs emblematic of those that most people face in life. How does Jess grow over the course of his boyhood? In particular, analyze its various hilarious and heartbreaking events and consider lessons he learned from these moments and virtues or vices he observed in other characters. Provide specific examples from the story to support your answer—a few from the first half and a few from the second half.

History Assignment – due to Mr. Cook:

Please follow the individual instructions for each part of the history summer reading assignment. This year the history and English assignment utilizes the same literary text. Since we will be studying North Carolina history, this is an excellent book to explore the intersection between fact and fiction in the written memory of a particular time and place. This part of your assignment is to engage critically as a budding historian with the Chappell book as a touchstone.

In two parts: Part I – Questions, answer both questions. **Part II** – Creative Response, select one option

Answer the following questions (500 word minimum for the entire assignment):

1. Setting (time and place)

From the entire novel, please describe the differences in daily life for a young boy (Jess) or teenager in 1940s North Carolina, and the North Carolina of today. Support your answer with specific details or quotations from the text of the book. Some specific examples you could focus on include what is different or the same about speech, religion, food, dress, transportation, social attitudes, expectations, how people spend their work and leisure time between now and then.

2. Theme (this question is in two parts)

A. The author, Fred Chappell chose to focus his work on this period of his life and the nation and state's history, why do you think this time (both for the boy character and the nation) would be such a powerful time of transition and change?

B. What do you think he feels has been lost or changed (for better or worse) by the end of the book?

One way to approach this question would be to think about the way in which a distant and strange reality (World War II in Europe) impact this small family in the mountains of rural North Carolina. Be specific in showing how something very much outside of their daily life and world came to have a profound effect on their lives.

Also, a work like this, a memoir, usually wants to capture something that is lost (lost to the past or is in the process of disappearing) and focuses on change. As you answer this question think about and respond to the idea of preserving something that was or may be lost, but also either celebrating or questioning an important change.

Creative Response

The last part of your assignment is to engage artistically, if you enjoy writing I recommend you choose option A, if not I recommend option B. Select only one of these two options.

A. Create a short story of your own in the style of Fred Chappell. Your story should focus on a true episode from your life, and a time in your life when some major news event that will be eventually become history in the future had a profound impacted on you, your family, or your friends. You may embellish the details for the sake of a good story, but the story should reflect the world you live in. Please include details about your daily life and/or people's reaction to the event that might be of future benefit to a historian studying the period 2003-2017.

B. The crafts of rural people appear in the story, and the crafts of the Southern Appalachians are justly famous. Create four quilt squares, any size above a minimum of 4" x 4". Each square should be in full color and symbolize an important part of your life (or a moment in the story – your choice). The square may be made of paper, cardboard, wood, or cloth (or other media). On the back write a short explanation (or attach one) of what the square represents and how it is significant to your life (or the story).

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This novel uses a non-linear, unconnected narrative structure. It is a collection of related short stories, but **DO NOT** expect it to tell a complete story from chapter one to the last page. Each chapter is a stand-alone and self-contained story, but the setting remains the same, and many characters and themes appear and re-appear throughout the book. The stories add up together to a complete tale, but there are gaps and holes in the story you need to fill in using your imagination.
- Language/Vernacular: This novel authentically tells the coming-of-age tale of Jess and his eccentric relatives in the mountains of Western North Carolina during WWII. The author artfully depicts this particular time and place with incredibly vivid imagery including touching moments that are both hilarious and heart-breaking. The themes of family, faith, truth, and purpose, among others, are brought about in a very relatable and enjoyable read. This well-told story does include a handful of mild profanities and a couple suggestive comments, so it requires students to approach their reading with maturity and understanding of what is worthy of emulation and what is not. Overall, students will be swept away by the writer's craft as he spins this unforgettable yarn about a young boy's life and the meaning and virtue he discovers along the way.
- These assignments will be the first assignments of the semester, so please start your new school year with a solid grade.
- Additional assignments derived from this text, such as a test and/or an essay, may be given during the first week of school.
- Please contact Mr. Rezzo (paulrezzo@mcacademy.com) and/or Mr. Cook (ericcook@mcacademy.com) with any questions.

Eighth Grade Supply List

Required:

Binder and pencil pouch
1 single subject spiral notebooks (science)
2 wide-ruled composition notebooks (history)
3-Subject spiral notebook (math)
Notebook paper
Graph paper
2-dozen pencils - Ticonderoga preferred (one dozen to keep, one to give to homeroom teacher)
Cap erasers
Colored pencils
Highlighters
Scissors
Calculator: TI-30XIIS (8th Grade Math) or TI-84 Plus (8th Grade Math or Algebra I)
Dry Erase Markers & Eraser
Chlorox wipes (to your homeroom teacher)
Kleenex (to your homeroom teacher)
Hand sanitizer (to your homeroom teacher)
Planner