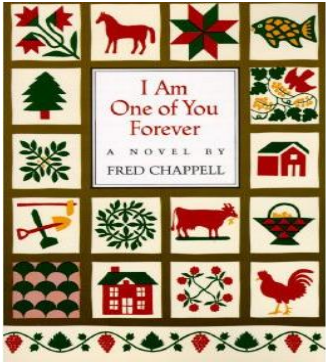


Millennium Charter Academy's 8th Grade Summer Reading



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: For both history and English: 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 to both teachers on **Monday, August 19, 2019.**

English Assignment – due to Mrs. Ferry:

- **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.
 - Setting/Culture/Historical Background
 - Conflict(s)
 - Climax
 - 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.

Separate 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 book. Since we will be studying Postwar US and Global History, this is an excellent book to explore the intersection between fact and fiction in the written memory of a particular time and place and in the history of our part of western North Carolina, as this story ends at the end of World War II. 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 one of the two questions. **Part II** – Creative Response

Answer one of the following questions:

1. (600-900 words)

From the entire novel, please describe the differences in daily life for a young boy (Jess) or teenager in 1940s North Carolina, and your life today. Support your answer with specific details and **several specific quotations from the text of the book** and details from your life. How is your life the same or different from what is portrayed in 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.

OR

2. (600-900 words)

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, even with fictional spin, 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,

- 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” per square.
- Each square should be in full color and symbolize an important part of your life (or a moment in the novel – your choice).
- The square may be made of paper, cardboard, wood, or cloth (or other media).
- On the back write a short explanation in the form of a paragraph of what the square represents and how it is significant to your life (or the story if your quilt represents the novel).
- Make sure your full first and last name and the due date are on the back of each square

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Structure: The book is not your typical novel; it is a collection of related short stories. 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

Mrs. Ferry (brendaferry@mcacademy.com)

and/or

Mr. Cook (ericcook@mcacademy.com)

with any questions

Eighth Grade Supply List

Required:

- Binder
- Planner
- Pencil pouch
- 1-single subject spiral notebook (science)
- 3-subject spiral notebook (math)
- 6-wide ruled composition notebooks (3 for History, 1 for English, & 2 for Math)
- Notebook paper
- Graph paper (2 packs)
- Pack of Post-its
- 2-dozen pencils (Ticonderoga preferred - one dozen to keep, and one dozen to give to your homeroom teacher)
- .5 or .7 lead (if needed)
- Cap erasers
- Colored pencils
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Calculator (TI-30XIIS–8th grade math or TI-84 Plus–8th grade math or Algebra I)
- 4-pk. of dry erase markers
- Clorox wipes (give to your homeroom/2nd period teacher)
- Kleenex (give to your homeroom/2nd period teacher)
- Hand sanitizer (give to your homeroom/2nd period teacher)
- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey
(ISBN: 978-1-4767-6466-5)