



Rising Seventh Grade Summer Reading

You are required to read two books this summer, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis, and *The Perilous Road* by William O. Steele

Assignment I: A major theme in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* is courage. After reading the book, write a five-paragraph essay about how courage is shown in the story. Each paragraph should begin with a strong topic sentence and contain a total of 5-7 sentences. All the sentences in each paragraph should support your topic sentence. Make sure that you follow the directions below.

Paragraph 1 – Begin your essay with a broad statement about the book that captures the reader’s attention. Be sure to include the title and the author. Next, briefly introduce and summarize the book. Explain what courage is and that it is a major theme in the story. Finally, end this paragraph with a thesis statement (see note below) that references three characters/events in which courage is demonstrated.

*A thesis statement is the “road map” for the essay. It is the last sentence of Paragraph 1 and it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper. We’ll talk more about thesis statements in seventh grade; for now, you can follow one of my examples.

- Example: Courage is illustrated in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* when {example #1}, {example #2}, and {example #3}.
- Example: Three characters in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* who show courage are {character #1}, {character #2}, {character #3}.

Paragraph 2 – Describe the first character/event in your thesis that illustrates courage. Thoroughly describe the person/situation and explain how courage is shown.

Paragraph 3 – Describe the second character/event in your thesis that illustrates courage. Thoroughly describe the person/situation and explain how courage is shown.

Paragraph 4 – Describe the third character/event in your thesis that illustrates courage. Thoroughly describe the person/situation and explain how courage is shown.

Paragraph 5 – Begin your concluding paragraph by restating your thesis. Then, add several closing thoughts about courage; consider why courage is important, where courage comes from, the opposite of courage, and how others might show courage. Conclude with an encouragement to others to show courage in hard situations.

Your essay should be written in pencil, in cursive, on lined notebook paper, written only on the front of the paper, and skipping a line after each written line. Sentences should have correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar usage. This is a formal essay; do not use contractions (ex. use “do not” instead of “don’t”) and do not use first- person pronouns (I, me, we) or second-person pronouns (you, yours).

*While not required, I highly recommend that you turn in Assignment I by **June 30**. If you do, you will receive 10 bonus points! You may drop-off your essay for *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* at the school office anytime during summer office hours but **no later than June 30**. Let the office staff know this is for Mrs. Tillman, and they will put it in my box.



Assignment II: *The Perilous Road* by William O. Steele will be part of a comparison essay writing assignment that you will complete during Term 1 of seventh grade. Please read the book carefully and answer the following questions. These questions will help prepare you to write an essay about the book after school starts. Your answers should be thoughtful and thorough so that you will be well-prepared for the future writing assignment!

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences on notebook paper. You should write your answers in well-constructed, grammatically correct sentences and in neat cursive. Please restate the question in each answer.

1. Who is Chris Brabson? Please give a thorough description.
2. Describe the members of Chris's family.
3. Where does Chris live?
4. What does Chris's family do to make a living? What are some of Chris's responsibilities?
5. What are Chris's feelings/beliefs about the Civil War? Does his family share his feelings/beliefs? Explain.
6. Why does Chris believe what he does about the North and the South? What are some specific things that happen to Chris that shape his feelings and beliefs?
7. Why does Chris's family experience hard feelings from members of their community? How is this shown?
8. Does Chris seek to educate himself about the war from trustworthy sources? What is his main source of information?
9. What is the timeframe of this story? (Days, weeks, months, or years)
10. Does Chris make wise, careful choices or emotional, impulsive choices? Please explain and give specific examples
11. What are some important lessons that Chris learns in this story?

Come to school the first day of class, August 9, 2023, having read your books and completed the written assignments. **If you do not turn in Assignment I by June 30, you will turn in both assignments to your English teacher on August 9, 2023 during class.**

If you have any questions, feel free to email me ctillman@tcsopelika.org or call/text me (334) 444-4263.

Happy Reading!