

**2009-2010 Pre-AP Eighth Grade English  
Summer Reading Assignment  
Whitehouse Junior High School**

Welcome to Pre-AP **eighth grade** English! I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you. Now is the time to prepare for next year. In order to accomplish our goals for the upcoming school year, over the summer, you must read *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. You will complete a written assignment for each novel. You will complete the written assignments and turn them in on or before August 25<sup>th</sup>. Last, be prepared to test over the novels during the first week of school.

As stated before, you will need to read *Johnny Tremain*. This historical novel will not only prepare you for English next year, but it will also help to bring the American Revolution to life when you study it later in the school year. While reading the novel, you will complete the assignment, "Double Entry Journal" Attached you will find directions for this assignment.

After reading *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, you will analyze one of the themes within the novel. See the attached sheet for directions.

\*\*\*Both written assignments may be hand-written or typed. Regardless of the way you choose to complete the assignment, the following instructions will apply:

- 12 or 14-point type size
- Arial or Times New Roman font
- Double Spaced
- Grammar, Mechanics, Usage, and Spelling will count
- Blue or Black Ink
- Do not write on the back of pages
- Stapled together—no report covers

**You are responsible for finding/buying copies of these novels.**

**All written work will be due on August 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Be prepared to test over the novels during the first week of school.**

# *Johnny Tremain* Double Entry Journal

The Double Entry Journal is used to record your response to text as you read. Draw a line down the center of the page. On the left-hand side of the page, copy text which is intriguing, puzzling, or moving, or which connects to a previous entry or situation. You must start by writing the number of the chapter and then include the page number for each text entry. On the column to the right, write a reaction to the quotation (the text entry). Your entry can include a comment, a question, a connection made, and an analysis.

Skip two or three lines between entries. Include **two** entries per chapter.

Remember not to write on the back side of any of the papers.

Again you are completing this assignment for the novel *Johnny Tremain*. It is due on August 25th.

Remember to be prepared to test over the novel, as well.

## **Double Entry Journal**

Chapter 1 – Text Entry, pg. ???	My Thoughts

# *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

## Themes

1. **The Importance of Family**
2. **The Importance of Owning Land**
3. **The Importance of Respect**

All of these are themes within the novel *Roll Thunder, Hear My Cry*. A theme is the general idea or insight about life that a work of literature reveals. In other words, it is an idea or message that the writer wishes to convey regarding the subject of the novel. This idea or message applies to the novel but also to life in general.

### Directions:

Choose **one** of the themes above; then do the following:

1. Explain the theme's importance within the novel. Why did the author make it one of the central messages?
2. Find three places in the novel where this theme is depicted and explain all of them. You can quote from the book or put it in your own words, but you will need to give the page number. Regardless of whether you quote the text or put it in your own words, you will have to explain how it relates to the theme you have chosen.
3. Last, explain why you chose the theme that you picked. In other words, what does it mean to you?

**Example:** "Pretend this is a quote from the book" (77). This is how your quotes with the page numbers should look.

- What will this assignment **look like** when you are finished?

It will be a **five** paragraph paper. The number one above will be its own paragraph, basically the introduction. Item number two in the directions will be split into three separate paragraphs. Last, number three in the directions will again be its own paragraph. Remember, that you must indent at the beginning of each paragraph and that you do not need to skip lines between paragraphs. This assignment may be typed or hand-written.

### Avoid using...

- I think or I believe (Use only one time if you use it.)
- I am writing about... (absolutely do not use this)
- Well (only use as an adverb—no well's at the beginning of a sentence)

- No abbreviations or SLANG
- No contractions—example-can't

In the top left-hand corner of the first page, write the name of the company that published the book that you are using. It does not matter which copy you use. I just need to know which one you did use.

Remember to be prepared to test over the novel, as well.