

ENGLISH III – COLLEGE PREP/HONORS

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Dear English III College Prep/Honors Students,

Welcome to a brand new year. At Carroll, we are looking forward to a wonderful and challenging year for all of you. As part of your preparation for next year, you are assigned to read **one** novel listed below. This thought-provoking novel and the related assignment will provide you with the necessary practice to sharpen and maintain your critical reading skills.

***Hiroshima* by John Hersey**

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atom bomb ever dropped on a city. This book, John Hersey’s journalistic masterpiece, tells what happened on that day. Told through the memories of survivors, this timeless, powerful and compassionate document has become a classic “that stirs the conscience of humanity.” (The New York Times).

Please purchase a paperback copy of the novel. Also, please read and carefully follow the instructions for the assignment which are designed to help prepare you for the first quarter of the school year. The assignment will be collected on the first day of school, without exception.

Have a fun, relaxing summer, enjoy your reading selection, and we’ll see you in August!

Many blessings,

Archbishop Coleman Carroll High School
English Department

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT ON HIROSHIMA

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AS NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THEM WILL BE REFLECTED IN YOUR GRADE

- Please purchase a black and white **composition notebook** (\$1.00 at Office Depot) in which to answer the discussion questions on the novel. You must **hand write your answers** (NO TYPED WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED). You may answer in cursive or print, but please make sure that your writing is legible. Your notebook must be turned in on the first full day of class.
- **This assignment will count as three (3) homework assignments.**



- Please answer each question in a complete sentence with details to support your answer. Use the questions to frame your answers. Also, eliminate the use of personal pronouns as much as possible (I, me, he, him, her, she, it, you, them, they). Use the character's name instead to identify who you are talking about. Remember that capitalization and punctuation rules apply and will be considered when grading your notebook.
- The key component in reading comprehension is being able to answer what we call the 5 W's and an H: Who, what, when, where, why and how. The discussion questions will address these reading comprehension building blocks.
- As you finish reading each chapter of the novel, you should complete the discussion questions for that chapter. Do not read the book and then go back and try to answer the questions. Answer them while the chapter is fresh in your mind!

***Hiroshima* by John Hersey - Discussion Questions**

Please follow the directions for answering the below listed questions as stated in the summer reading assignment letter. These will be checked the second day of class.

Chapter 1. Short Response Questions

1. Where does Miss Sasaki work?
2. At what hospital does Dr. Terafumi Sasaki work?
3. What do the Japanese call the B-29 plane?
4. Why do the police suspect Mr. Tanimoto of being a spy?
5. What shape is Hiroshima described as?
6. Where does Mr. Tanimoto dive when he sees the flash?
7. Where had Mrs. Nakamura taken her children the night before?

Chapter 1. Respond in one paragraph for each question.

1. What do we learn about Japanese society in the first chapter?
2. Why do the residents of Hiroshima feel a sense of tension?
3. Why do you think Hersey chose these individuals to write about?
4. What details does Hersey use to illustrate the personalities of each 'character'?
5. How does Hersey's writing differ from other, traditional journalistic accounts of an event?
6. How many personal stories does 'Hiroshima' follow?

Chapter 2. Short Response Questions

1. How does Mr. Tanimoto recover from his initial feeling of terror?
2. What irrational worry does Mrs. Nakamura have when she first brings her children outdoors?
3. Why does Mr. Tanimoto feel guilty?
4. What item does Dr. Sasaki lose in the blast and replaces by taking some from an injured nurse?

5. Why is Dr. Fujii embarrassed?
6. What common symptom do Mrs. Nakamura and her children experience after the explosion?
7. What does Mrs. Nakamura use to hide herself and her children when planes fly over?
8. Why can't the water from the rivers be drunk?
9. What is one of the theories about how the fires became so widespread?
10. What food does Father Kleinsorge find in the mission garden?

Chapter 2. Respond in one paragraph for each question.

1. What is the common misconception about the extent of the damage before they get outside? What does this tell us?
2. What tone does Hersey take when describing the damage seen by each character? What is the effect created by his tone?
3. Knowing what we know now, what are the telltale signs that the injuries people have are the result of an atom bomb?
4. Mr. Tanimoto expresses a feeling of guilt at being unharmed - how is this expressed and what does it tell the reader?
5. What gives us a sense of the scale of the destruction left by the A-bomb?

Chapter 3. Short Response Questions

1. What happened to the injured people Mr. Tanimoto moved from a sand spit onto higher ground?
2. What happened to the eyes of the soldiers Father Kleinsorge finds in the park?
3. What is Father Kleinsorge given to chew, instead of water?
4. Which priest is evacuated from Asano Park on a wooden litter?
5. What happened during the night that the children in Asano Park found delightful?
6. Who announced over the radio that the attack on Hiroshima had been with an atomic weapon?
7. What did Mr. Tanimoto bring back to Asano Park instead of a doctor, as he had promised?
8. What did Father Kleinsorge use to help give the group of soldiers water (their lips being too swollen for the tea pot spout)?

9. What happened to Miss Sasaki's mother, father, and baby brother?
10. What had Mr. Tanimoto promised to do for his neighbor, Mrs. Kamai?

Chapter 3. Respond in one paragraph for each question

1. What do the various civilian theories about the attack on Hiroshima tell us about the nature of the atomic bomb?
2. How does Hersey describe the atrocities in the days after the bombing? How would you describe his tone?
3. How do the survivors of Hiroshima respond to the radio announcement by President Truman that the bomb dropped was atomic?
4. What priorities have the doctors of the East Parade Ground made, observed by Mr. Tanimoto?
5. How do people react to the Emperor's announcement of the Japanese surrender on the radio? What does this tell us about Japanese society?

Chapter 4. Short Response Questions

1. What is surprising about the small cuts that Father Kleinsorge got in the explosion?
2. What does Miss Sasaki notice on her way to the Red Cross Hospital, going through Hiroshima?
3. What second disaster hits Hiroshima in September?
4. What happened to the sewing machine Mrs. Nakamura hid in her water tank?
5. What does Toshio Nakamura continue to have nightmares about?
6. How many stages does Dr. Sasaki observe as radiation sickness unfolds in his patients?
7. Which two characters have a chance encounter on a train?
8. What does Miss Sasaki do when she finally leaves the hospital?
9. What did the group of schoolgirls sing as they died?
10. To what other (immoral) weapon do the Jesuits compare the use of the bomb?

Chapter 4. Respond in one paragraph for each question.

1. How does Hersey describe the ruins of Hiroshima? What imagery is used?
2. Why might have the greenery in the ruins given Miss Sasaki "the creeps?"
3. How is tension created in the revealing of the symptoms of radiation sickness?

4. What do the rumors of highly detailed human shadows convey?
5. How does Dr. Fujii react to the Japanese surrender and American occupation?

Chapter 5. Short Response Questions

1. For what kind of company did Mrs. Nakamura collect money for a time?
2. Who took care of Mrs. Nakamura when she retired?
3. What luxury establishment did Dr. Sasaki build next to his clinic?
4. How did Dr. Sasaki's wife die?
5. What name was Father Makoto Takakura previously known under?
6. What does Miss Sasaki think is more evil than the A-bomb?
7. What name did Miss Sasaki take as a nun?
8. What was Sister Sasaki's special talent?
9. Who did Dr. Fujii accompany to New York?
10. For what did Mr. Tanimoto campaign to be built in Hiroshima?

Chapter 5. Respond in one paragraph for each question.

1. Why does it seem that Mrs. Nakamura and her family steered clear of activism around nuclear weapons?
2. In what ways did Father Kleinsorge succeed or fail in assimilating in Japanese society?
3. What discriminatory issues arose for the hibakusha?
4. How does Dr. Fujii react to American culture?
5. Is Mr. Tanimoto's appearance on the American television show exploitative? Would it be considered ethical by modern standards?