



English 8 Summer Reading Assignment

TEXT: *Fever 1793* **All students will need to purchase a clean copy of the novel – ISBN#978-0689848919**

DATE DUE: Wednesday, 8/18 or Thursday, 8/19 – depending upon class schedule. A completed assignment will be due on first day of class. This assignment will count as your first **TWO** quiz grades.

All incoming 8th grade students will read and annotate Laurie Halse Anderson's *Fever 1793* prior to the first day of school. Be sure and read the Appendix which contains important historical facts about this period in history. Students will be expected to turn in a completed assignment the either Thursday, August 19th or Friday, August 20th. A completed assignment includes the following: (1) annotation assignment and (2) a **printed** writing assignment. This text will be used in instruction during the first weeks of school.

ANNOTATION and VOCABULARY ASSIGNMENT:

As you read, you will be required to annotate for the following elements:

- Characters and character traits – highlight each character as they are introduced and write a marginal note indicating a fact about that character's part in the plot of the novel. As the novel continues, mark actions of the characters, and in the margins of the novel, write a trait – eg. kindness, compassion, selfishness, etc. – that is exhibited by that character's action.
- Highlight and note major events in the plot – setting, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
- At the end of each chapter, **write a 3 to 4 sentence summary** of the major events of that chapter.
- As you read, highlight the list of vocabulary words from the attached sheet.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT: One of the primary ways in which we will work with the literary selections read during the 8th grade year will be analyzing how an author develops the theme of that selection. Theme is a universal truth that the author shares with the reader through the story. Below are two of the themes that we will be discussing during the first weeks of school. As you read, find and mark the characters' actions through the novel that show the importance of being brave in face of fear and uncertainty and how a person can become self-reliant and take initiative in their life. Think about a time when you had to be brave in the midst of fear and uncertainty or when you learn self-reliance.

Bravery in the Face of Fear and Uncertainty

The yellow fever is a very scary force: no one is safe from it, and it can take even the strongest of persons. Philadelphia, a very large city, becomes a graveyard because of the plague. Everyone is affected either by becoming infected, hiding from infection, or by losing friends and family in the disease's wake. The fever brings the best and the worst in people: thieves and looters stalk the streets, while others sacrifice their own health and safety to care for the sick. Mattie is thrust into this situation. She must be brave in the face of death and sorrow. Fear is a constant force, and her bravery is what pulls her through. Other characters demonstrate bravery throughout the novel as they stay noble in the face of danger and death.

* Cudworth, Hovey, BYU, 2012

The Levels of Self-Reliance: Survival and Initiative

This is perhaps the major theme of the novel. Mattie is forced to self-reliant as she is separated from her mother and grandfather. She starts the novel as one who must be commanded to work—she tries to get out of work by any means she can—then she grows to work on her own as she must strive to survive the harshness of plague-stricken Philadelphia. Later, she realizes that, in order to improve her situation and her life, she must take initiative. This is the driving force of her character progression. By the end of the novel she has essentially become self-reliant and responsible through her own initiative.

* Cudworth, Hovey, BYU, 2012

Select one of themes above, and in a well-developed typed response of 300 - 350 words, discuss how you have shown bravery in the face of fear or failure OR a time when you learned to take initiative and become self-reliant. Use the following guidelines in writing your response:

- MLA format – double spaced, Times New Roman 12, correct heading and appropriate title (see attached example of format)
- Structure of response:
 - A short introduction which identifies which theme to be discussed and a brief identification of the circumstance in which you experienced bravery or self-reliance (3-4 sentences)
 - A body paragraph describing the circumstances of the event that impacted you (8 sentences)
 - A body paragraph in which you discuss the lessons learned about bravery or self-reliance (8 sentences)
 - A conclusion that sums up your response sharing the importance of that lesson (3 sentences)
- Grammar, spelling and punctuation will be part of the final grade of this assignment.

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

- Novel is annotated for required elements and summaries are written at the end of each chapter – due Wednesday, 8/18, or Thursday, 8/19, depending upon schedule
- Writing assignment is completed according to the directions and has been printed to turn in on either Wednesday, 8/18, or Thursday, 8/19, depending upon schedule.

If you have any questions concerning this assignment, you may contact me at groeder@fbacademy.com.

Fever 1793 Vocabulary

As you read, **highlight** the following words as you see them.

1. peckish (p. 16)
2. miasma (p. 19)
3. noxious (p. 20)
4. bilious fever (p. 21)
5. balderdash (p. 21)
6. strongbox (p. 24)
7. demure (p. 32)
8. droll (p. 37)
9. petticoat (p. 42)
10. din (p. 54)
11. bunkum (p. 71)
12. lancet (p. 72)
13. flint (p. 92)
14. tinder (p. 92)
15. scullery maid (p. 117)
16. cooperage (p. 171)
17. fetid (p. 210)
18. stench (p. 210)
19. haberdasher (p. 215)
20. gaunt (p. 219)