

Summer Reading Assignment: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Welcome to English 1H! My name is Mrs. Wilson and I will be your English 1 Honors teacher in September. If you have any questions at all about this reading assignment or our class next year, please do not hesitate to email me at: awilson@bhprsd.org. I will check my email regularly during the summer.

For your summer reading assignment, you will be reading the novel A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith and completing a journaling activity. You must purchase this book for yourself, pick up a copy from the Main Office at Highland or take it out of the library. As you read the novel, you will complete a journaling activity. You will write six (6) different journal entries based on the assigned journal topics below. These journal topics will draw from your life experience as well as the events from the novel, so you must read in order to complete your responses correctly. Your journal entries should be no fewer than two (2) complete paragraphs, and no more than four (4) complete paragraphs.

When you finish your six journal entries, you will bind them in some form and create a cover that reflects one of the messages that you think the author of A Tree Grows In Brooklyn, Betty Smith, communicates through the novel. This will be the first grade of the school year and will be graded using the rubric on the back of this paper. Your personal journal may take on whatever form you choose, but please put some creativity into its creation. This will be your chance to make a strong first impression, so be creative and careful with your project.

YOUR COMPLETED PROJECT WILL BE DUE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH. NO LATE PROJECTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Journaling Topics

Journal Entry #1 - Chapters 1-10: Poverty

Poverty is an everyday fact for many millions of Americans today. What does it mean to be poor? What experiences have you had with poverty in your life? How do the main characters of A Tree Grows In Brooklyn respond to the poverty they experience? Why?

Journal Entry #2 - Chapters 11-20: Education

Education can be formal, as in school, or informal, as in learning important things from friends and family members. How do you define education? What does it mean to you? How have you experienced education in your own life? How do the main characters of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn experience education? Why?

Journal Entry #3 - Chapters 21-30: Gender

What differences do you notice between men and women? How do you think gender affects one's experiences in life? How do the genders of the main characters in A Tree Grows in Brooklyn affect their life experiences? Why?

Journal Entry #4 - Chapters 31-40: Perseverance

Perseverance means doing and working to accomplish something despite difficulties. Is perseverance an important quality in your life? Why or why not? Do you consider yourself a perseverant person? Why or why not? What examples of perseverance have you found in the A Tree Grows in Brooklyn?

Journal Entry #5 - Chapters 41-50: The American Dream

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What does the American Dream mean to you? What do you think most Americans dream about achieving in their lives? What do you dream about achieving in your life? What is the American Dream for the main characters of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn? Why?

Journal Entry #6 - Chapter 51-56: Theme

The theme of a novel is the message that the author is trying to send by writing that novel. What do you think Betty Smith is trying to say in her novel A Tree Grows in Brooklyn? What does she say about poverty, education, gender, perseverance or the American Dream? Create a cover for your journal assignment that represents that theme, and explain your cover in this journal entry.

Your Journaling Assignment will be graded using the following rubric:

	4	3	2	1
Completeness	All 6 journal entries are at least 2 complete paragraphs and no more than 4 paragraphs, and answer all of the questions posed in the journaling prompt.	Includes 6 journal entries, but some entries are not at least 2 paragraphs or do not answer all of the prompt questions.	Includes 3 or more journal entries or varying completeness.	Includes fewer than 3 journal entries.
Analysis	All 6 journal entries represent a careful analysis of the novel with specific references to the novel for support.	Most of the journal entries represent a careful analysis of the novel with specific references to the novel for support.	Some of the journal entries represent a careful analysis of the novel with specific references to the novel for support.	None of the journal entries represent a careful analysis of the novel with specific references to the novel for support.
Cover/Theme	Completed assignment includes a carefully and creatively constructed cover that represents one of the themes of the novel.	Completed cover is either not careful or not creative, but still represents the theme of the novel.	Completed cover does not represent the theme of the novel.	There is no cover or it is incomplete.
Grammar/ Sentence Structure	Completed assignment was clearly proofread and contains few or no grammatical errors or errors in sentence structure.	Completed assignment contains some grammatical errors or errors in sentence structure.	Completed contains many grammatical errors or errors in sentence structure.	Completed assignment was clearly not proofread.
Punctuation/ Spelling	Completed assignment was clearly proofread and contains few or no	Completed assignment contains some	Completed assignment contains many	Completed assignment was clearly not

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	punctuation or spelling errors.	punctuation or spelling errors.	punctuation or spelling errors.	proofread.
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