

HCS 9th Grade Summer Reading Project

Dear Parents:

Students entering 9th grade at Houma Christian School are required to read The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom. Research shows that the frequency of reading plays a significant role in reading level retention. Therefore, we encourage students to read throughout the summer.

Summer reading is worth two 50-point grades. These are the first grades of the school year, and all work is due on the second day class is held. Read as much as you can this summer – keep your brain working. Enjoy your summer, and don't wait until the last minute! See you in August!

How to Begin:

Obtain a copy of the required book.

Purchase a small spiral notebook or composition book to include all Summer Reading assignments to be turned in on the second day class is held.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

Eddie is a grizzled war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life of fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. His days are a dull routine of work, loneliness, and regret. Then, on his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic accident, trying to save a little girl from a falling cart. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is not a lush Garden of Eden, but a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people.

Assignment:

1. Students will take a 50-point comprehension test on the second day of school.

2. Students are to complete a “Response Journal” for The Five People You Meet in Heaven.
(Worth 25 points)

The directions for the response journal are as follows:

1. While reading, choose **3** passages that impacted you in one of the following ways:
 - a. Made you see something in a different light
 - b. Helped you understand something
 - c. Called you to action
 - d. Prompted you to reevaluate your spiritual walk and to change your behavior or attitude toward something
 - e. Supported an idea you already had
 - f. Caused you to live that moment with the author
 - g. Reminded you of a time in your life
2. On a separate page in your notebook, write the chapter # and copy the passage (word for word).
3. Cite the page where the passage was found.
4. Note how the passage impacted you using the impact list above as your topic sentence.
5. Give three to five points as to how the passage impacted your life.
6. An example is at the bottom of this assignment.

3. Students are to write a response essay to the following prompt, “When you reach Heaven, think of three people whom you’d like to meet again who have had an impact in your life in some way. Name them and discuss why you chose those three people.” Use responses from your journal in your writing. Your essay must be handwritten, a minimum of 150 words, and will not be graded for mechanics, usage, or grammar. (Worth 25 points)

RESPONSE JOURNAL SAMPLE:

(PLEASE NOTE YOU SHOULD HAVE THREE ENTRIES SIMILAR TO THE ONE BELOW.)

Part 1, Chapter 3 “The Myth of Adolescence”

Passage: “We live in a culture that wants to tell us how to act, how to think, how to look, and how to talk. It tells us what to wear, what to buy, and where to buy it. It tells us what to dream, what to value, and what to live for – and it’s not Christ. To quote an old Pepsi ad from the nineties, “Be young. Have fun. Drink Pepsi.” Nike tells us, “Just do it.” Sprite tells us, “Obey your thirst.” And who hasn’t heard the joke that 92 percent of teens would be dead if trend-setting Hollister decided breathing was uncool?” (page 43)

Prompted me to re-evaluate my spiritual walk and to change my behavior or attitude toward something.

Impact:

1. I realized how often I am consumed with things of this world.
2. I thought about the fact that the world tells us what to live for, and often I am not living with a kingdom mentality.
3. I need to focus on those things that matter – the things of Christ – not of this world.
4. It doesn’t matter what clothes I wear, what I drink, or the things I have. Helping people make it to Heaven is what really matters.