

## HCS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Project

Dear Parents:

Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Houma Christian School are required to read one book this summer. The title is listed below along with the assignment. Research shows that the frequency of reading plays a significant role in reading level retention. Therefore, we encourage students to read throughout the summer. The 7th grade summer book is The Heart Reader of Franklin High. It can be purchased at local bookstores or ordered online. The author is Terri Blackstock.

Summer reading is worth a 50-point test grade in both English and reading. This will be the first grade of the school year, and the assignment 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!

### The Heart Reader of Franklin High by Terri Blackstock

Summary: When Jake Sheffield, a typical Christian teenager, awakens to discover that he can hear the deepest spiritual needs of those around him, the reality of the deep needs of the world hits him. And the lives he touches, through the help of the Holy Spirit, will never be the same. As his friends witness the power of sharing Christ with others, they too begin to "hear" like Jake. *The Heart Reader of Franklin High* is a moving, evangelistic challenge for Christian teens.

### **Assignment:**

1. Comprehension Test: Students will take a 50-point test in reading.

*The Response journal and essay comprise a 50-point English grade*

2. Response Journal: Directions for the response journal are listed on the next page. The student is required to complete three entries. Each entry is worth 10 points. This can be completed in the marble notebook that will also serve as your English journal for the nine weeks.

3. Essay: How did the entire book impact you spiritually? If you were given the same gift as Jake to hear others' needs, how would you take action?

- Must be handwritten on loose-leaf paper
- Will not be graded on grammar, usage, and mechanics
- Length requirement 50 words

The directions for the response journal are as follows;

1. While reading, choose 3 passages that impact 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.

EXAMPLE:

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.