

Religion Department

Summer Reading Assignments 2010-2011

Rising Grade 9, Journey of Faith: Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

Religion Summer Reading Assignment – Grade 9

Read: Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

Publisher: Harper Trophy; Reissue edition (Original, 1980; reissue 1990)

ISBN: 006443688

*Lord, you have searched me and you know me...
You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise you, so wonderfully you made me!
~Psalm 139 1; 13-14a*

Welcome to Mount St. Joseph Academy! We are all looking forward to you joining our community in September. The first Religion Course that you will take in Grade 9 is called Journey of Faith. This is a wonderful place for you to begin because you are now on a very important journey through high school. We will build on the faith you already have in God and develop the faith you have in yourself. In this class we will explore what it means to be in loving relationship with God. We often talk in the Religion Department about our students "finding their voice." Just what does that mean? It means that through learning about the Triune God who creates us, knows us and loves us, we discover and grow in the confidence we have in ourselves. As we grow in our faith, hope and love in the Triune God, we grow in our faith, hope and love of ourselves and of one another.

We encourage you to ask questions, to pray, to laugh, to learn, and to listen. In the Religion Department we learn from each other but we learn most of all from the Great Teacher – who is our God of love. You begin your journey with this assignment. Read not only with your eyes – but read with your heart. We are excited to see what insights you have into this book. It is important that you understand the story but also how this story can apply to your very own life.

Jacob Have I Loved, by Katherine Paterson, is a book about a young girl growing up in a fishing village during World War Two. Louise Bradshaw, like many fourteen year old adolescents, feels awkward, strange, and unloved. Having a beautiful, talented and seemingly perfect twin sister does not help matters. Throughout the book, we watch Louise deal with her own self-discovery as she battles self-esteem issues, jealousy, broken friendships, and the normal feelings that comes with growing up. Ultimately, Louise must learn how to value herself and her own self-worth so that she can share her gifts and talents with the world.

Directions and evaluation information:

When we return to school after summer vacation, you will be asked to respond, in class, to a timed writing essay prompt. The essay will be worth a test grade. In preparing your essay, you will be able to use both the summer reading book and note cards as resources during the timed writing period. The note cards will be collected along with your timed writing. Note cards will be worth a quiz grade. You should have at least FIVE 3x5 note cards ready to use on the day of the writing assignment. These note cards will be part of the evaluation. They must be handwritten. You can write on both sides of the note cards if you wish. Note cards must be in your own handwriting.

What kind of information should be on the note cards?

- Description of what happens to Louise and how she changes chapter by chapter.
- Identify the main characters and be able to give a brief description of each of them. Pay special attention to how Louise views each of the characters and her relationship with them.
- Description of the culture of the fishing village Louise lives in –especially the role religion plays in the lives of the villagers.
- Explain different things Louise learns about herself and others throughout the book.
- Write down FIVE of your favorite quotes from the book.

Rubric for Note cards:

20% At least 5-7 note cards.

50% Notes taken according to the directions above, which indicates the information that should be on note cards.

30% Evidence that the student has taken time and effort creating note cards.

Due Date: Students will be given the essay prompt in class during the first full week of school, on a day to be determined by the teacher. The teacher will give the students at least two days notice of when the evaluation will take place. Students must have the required number of note cards the day of the writing prompt. There will be a 10% deduction for each day note cards are late.

Questions: If you have any questions about this assignment, you may email Ms. Greiner at the address below. Teachers may not be checking email as regularly during the summer months as they do during the school year, so do not leave your questions to the last minute. Know that questions are fine and if you have one – don't hesitate to ask.

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