

Saint Pius X 2015 Summer Reading Study Guide

Required Book (s) - Assessment Format:

The test is comprised of 40-75 multiple choice questions, depending on the grade and level; the scoring is calculated based on 100 possible points. The book cannot be used during the test. While some of the test questions will address basic facts such as plot details, information about the characters, the setting, as well as the story's basic ideas and themes, some questions will require that students be able to make connections and draw conclusions based on their knowledge of the book.

All students complete an in-class essay to demonstrate their ability to organize their thoughts and observations about the book. Teachers will review the basic components of successful writing before the essay is written. Writing will be scored as half of the test. Follow-up instruction, along with a related writing activity, will help to support students who may start the year with skill gaps in writing. Students should prepare ahead of time by reviewing any notes they have taken while reading the book.

While reading, students should take notes to track basic information and reflect upon the book's events and outcomes. For example, if a book's theme addresses changes in society brought about by new technologies, you might be asked what the author's point is about these changes. Is society improved, or is it harmed? You also might be asked what the author's attitude (tone) is toward the topic. Is he or she being serious, humorous, critical, or ironic?

Therefore, it is helpful to take notes while you are reading to help you process your thoughts and responses to the book's ideas and events. The notes will help you prepare for the test which you will take the first week of school. The test will cover character, setting, plot, theme and conflict.

Study Guide – Part One

1. CHARACTER--Write the name and description of each character in the novel. Identify the relationships of the characters to one another. Be sure to think about what the physical descriptions tell you about characters on a deeper level. What are their dreams, goals, and personality traits? How do these traits affect choices they make?
2. SETTING--Identify the setting/s. If there are several, identify the main settings. When and where does the story take place? What clues help you determine the setting? What is the atmosphere like? Think about time, place, mood, cultural beliefs, social norms...How do these settings affect the novel?
3. PLOT-- What is the main problem in the story? How is it solved? If it isn't solved, explain why. Create a plot diagram of the main events in the book. Focus on the main events—conflict,

rising action, turning point, falling action, resolution. You should have no more than 20 events if you are focusing on the BIGGEST EVENTS that help move the story from conflict to resolution.

4. **THEME**—What are some of the major themes (underlying messages)? How do you know?
5. **CAUSE/EFFECT**—Select one event. What was the cause of this event? What made it happen? Was it something someone did, or said, or something that just happened? Did it cause anything else to happen as a result?
6. **POINT OF VIEW**—Who is telling the story? Is it told in 1st person, 3rd person limited or 3rd person omniscient? How does this point of view affect the story?
7. **OPINION**—What did you like about this novel? What did you dislike? What surprised you? What do you think would happen if the story were to continue? Why?

Study Guide – Part Two

1. Summarize the main ideas in this book.
2. Can you identify the facts? The opinions? Did the author weave opinion and fact statements into the piece? Find examples of each.
3. What is the author's main purpose in writing this book? What does the author want you to learn? Do you find the author's evidence convincing or is it biased? Explain.
4. What new information did you learn? How can you apply this to an issue or problem today?
5. Were there any photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, or diagrams that were important? Select two or three and show what you learned from them and explain why you believe each one was important enough to be included in the book.
6. Did the reading leave you with unanswered questions? What are these?

Bring the Required Book (s) to Class: After the test is taken, students will need to bring a copy of the book with them to class since the book is the basis of the first unit of instruction; therefore, the reading should be completed in a thoughtful way, not only to prepare for the exam but also to participate knowledgeably in class discussions and assigned activities.

A notebook is highly recommended-

These notes will help you to read more closely and to stay better focused while you read. These notes will not only make it easier to review the book if you read it early in the summer, but they will also better prepare you for discussions and class assignments related to the reading.