



ESE ENGLISH Summer Reading

8th Grade 2019-2020

All 8th grade English students at Berean Christian School are expected to complete a summer reading assignment, as reading over the summer will help each student improve vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills that will make all studies more beneficial to academic achievement.

8th Grade ESE English students have one required book for Summer Reading:

***The River* by Gary Paulson**

Students will complete **two assignments** based on this book.

1. **An objective quiz** over the required book will be on **Friday, August 9, 2019**.
2. **A written assignment analyzing a life lesson** from the book will be **due Tuesday, August 20** for a **quiz grade**. This analysis will be the basis of a writing assignment that will count as a **test grade later in the quarter**. The guidelines for the character analysis are listed below.

Assignment 2 is a written life-lesson analysis (quiz grade) due Tuesday, August 20, 2019. Please follow the guidelines below. Please look on RenWeb for helpful resources on both MLA formatting and Citing. These concepts will be covered in class as well.

- Choose 3 significant life lessons which can be learned from the book.
- Choose **3 quotes from the book that support or illustrate each life lesson**. One quote supports one life lesson.
- Record the quotes and your analysis of them using the format explained on page 2. **Be sure to follow the analysis format in step 4 very carefully to receive full credit.**

***Note:** It may be best to put sticky notes in the book as you read and find quotes you think are important and then do the assignment when you are finished, picking the 3 best quotes.*

- **Writing Assignment Directions**

1. Set up your page using MLA format and title it “Life Lesson Journal for _____” (fill in the blank with your chosen book name).
2. Under the title create a four-column table. *Feel free to use the template on page three.*
3. In the left column type the quotes **and their in-text citations (the author’s last name and the page number on which the quote is found).**
4. In the right columns type out your analysis of the quote. You should **NOT** just sum the quote up.
 - a. Column 2 briefly explain **what is going on at this point in the book** (1-2 sentences)
 - b. Column 3 explain **what life lesson/message the quote shows** (1-2 sentences). Make sure all your quotes show the same lesson/message.
 - c. Column 4 explain **how the quote shows/supports the lesson/message in b** (1 sentence), for a total of 3-5 sentences of your personal analysis per quote.
5. Complete a Works Cited page with the corrected Works Cited information from the edition of the book you used.



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Writing Assignment Example:

Student 1

Sample Student

Mrs. Eichner

English I

15 August 2016

Life Lessons Journal for Hatchet

Quote (cited)	(a) What's happening (1-2 sentences)	(b) What life lesson does this quote show?	(c) How does the quote show this life lesson?
"...he would not let death in again" (Paulsen 117).	Brian is alone in the wilderness for 5 days before he finally hears a rescue plane, only for it to turn around before it gets to him. The plane turns around and does not see Brian or his smoke signals. This event causes Brian to lose all hope and sink into a deep state of depression where he no longer wants to live because he feels no one will ever find him. The next morning Brian wakes up a changed person. He is angry at himself for allowing himself to sink as low as he did.	Brian realizes that his life is worth something, and the he alone is the only one that can change that	The life lesson is a 13 year old boy looking past his family circumstances, his current state of emergency, and realizing that he can't blame anyone else for the situation that he is currently in at the moment. At this point Brian "grows-up" and takes his life as something that is important and decides to continue to survive because he can.
"Mistakes. In his mental journal he listed them to tell his father..." (Paulsen 118).	Brian is a city boy, and he is not familiar with the wilderness. He is left alone to fend for himself which proves to much harder than he anticipated. After not being rescued for over a month Brian now realizes he must figure things out for himself. Brian has many failures or setbacks such as: a concussion (28), a run-in with a porcupine (75), failed attempts at making a fire (82), a bow and arrow that almost blinded him (117), failed fishing attempts (105), and a run-in with a skunk (123).	Brian's ability to persevere and keep pushing on is a life lesson that is evident throughout the story.	These are examples when Brian could have given up, but he was determined to keep trying. In this quote Brian thinks about how he will tell his dad about all of the things he tried, but did not work out. He is not ashamed of his failures, but he embraces them as a new found hope for when he is reunited with his dad.



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PARENTS AND STUDENTS, PLEASE NOTE:

- As a Christian, a person may wonder, “Should Christians study the classics of literature?” Christians should be aware that man’s writings reflect his inner thoughts. This can be seen throughout a study of literature and the authors’ lives. If we look at secular literature (classics) through discerning eyes, our own faith and testimony can be strengthened. The selections chosen for the reading list are either classic in nature or carry strong literary merit. Berean Christian School cannot be responsible for all content in every selection.
- Please be advised: copied, summarized, or paraphrased information from an internet source, or any other source, is unacceptable. **THIS IS PLAGIARISM!** Be sure to correctly document sources that are used and use your own thoughts based on what you have learned to complete ANY writing assignment. Common knowledge and your own thoughts do NOT need to be documented.

Template for Life-Lesson journal is below.



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Lessons from *The River* by Gary Paulson
DUE TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019

Quote (cited)	What's happening (1-2 sentences)	What life lesson or message does this quote show	How does this quote show or support that lesson?

Student Name: _____