

8th Grade/English 1 Summer 2010 Reading Requirements

Treasure Island Robert Louis Stevenson 8th Lit & Eng IH

A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens 8th Lit & Eng IH

The Pearl John Steinbeck English I Honors only

Treasure Island

1. Keep a "captain's log" (journal) while reading this classic. Maintain a running account (two-three paragraphs per chapter) of the story to include characters, conflicts, etc.
2. At the end of your journal, write a list of the items inside of Billy Bone's mysterious sea chest. Compare it to what would you pack and explain why/how they would be different.
3. Make your own treasure map up using symbols instead of words. When we return to school, we will allow time for others to try and figure it out.

A Christmas Carol

1. Read and select six or more important events in Charles Dickens' life. Place the events on a timeline in correct order.
2. Maintain a catalogue of the following information about A Christmas Carol.

(Paraphrase at least a paragraph each)

- (a). Queen Victoria and the Victorian Era
- (b) Union Workhouses
- (c) three dishes & menus
- (d) child labor
- (e) two parlor games & directions

The Pearl

1. Read the parable of the pearl in the Bible (see below). There the pearl represents a beneficial religion, good for the life of the buyer who sell all for the pearl. It contrasts with Kino who gives almost all for the pearl and it is not beneficial to his life. Does the pearl represent a materialism that causes him to forsake the sound foundations of his own culture? Explain

*****Matthew 13:45-46) Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. *****

2. **Essay on symbolism. Research and explain two of the symbols (the beggars, Coyotito, Kino, Juana, doctor, priest) in the novel and make an educated guess about why Steinbeck included them. Analyze ways in which Steinbeck uses symbolism to evoke readers' emotions, advance an idea about the author's use of symbolism, and support that idea with detailed references.**

Students: You may email any finished work to me (cathy.ollic@sjcacavaliers.com) during the summer!!! Enjoy!