

Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Summer Reading Journal

Below, you will find a series of prompts which will guide your interaction with your novel. Each of the prompts will be related to an important critical reading skill that you will master throughout your middle school career. Please be sure to respond to all prompts. Your responses should be thorough, organized, and neat. You will hand this completed assignment to your English teacher on your first day of school. You will be graded on your effort and diligence with this exercise.

6th Grade Required Reading: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne;
Attached history articles: "The Holocaust" and "A History of anti-Semitism"



Requirements

- You will have **five** journal prompts to answer.
- Each journal entry should be at least 1 paragraph in length (6 or more sentences)
- Write your entries on loose-leaf paper or type it, print it out, and staple. If typed, please write in 12 pt font, Times New Roman or Arial.
- Please do not use a notebook or journal book.
- Please include your first name and the title of the book on the right hand corner of the first page. You may begin journal entry one on the first page.
- Each journal page should start with the journal entry number and the journal entry prompt.
- Follow the journal format below.

First page sample

Raymond Knight
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Journal Entry #1

Write a plot summary and include the theme, the setting(s), and the main characters.

In *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, the story begins in....

Journal Entry # 2

Make a connection between this book and another story you have read.

The story *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* is similar to another story titled...

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Please respond to the following prompts. The information should include examples from the text and be accurate to the story. Make sure you proofread for spelling, grammar, and capitalization errors. Rewrite if necessary.

1. Write a plot summary and include the theme, the setting(s), and the main characters.
2. Make a connection between this book and another story you have read.
3. What is the conflict, or central problem, in the story? Explain and provide examples.
4. Make a connection between the story and the article titled, "A History of anti-Semitism."
5. What details about the setting help make the characters' times and lifestyles seem real? Refer to the article titled, "The Holocaust," for historical background information.

Rubric for 7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Please review the rubric and refer to it as you complete your journal.

	5	4	3	2	Score
Content	The response fully answers the prompt. Examples are strong and from the text. Information is accurate to the text.	The response answers the question. Examples are good. Information is generally accurate.	The response partially answers the questions. Examples need support, are not from the text, or are inaccurate.	The response does not answer the question. There are no examples or the examples show a misunderstanding of the prompt or story.	_ /5
Grammar/Mechanics	Sentences are complete. There are no spelling, capitalization, or grammatical errors.	Sentences are complete but can be rewritten to make better sense. There are few spelling, capitalization, and grammatical errors.	There are errors in sentence structure. There are spelling, capitalization, and grammatical errors.	There are many errors in sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, and grammar.	_ /5
Attention to Assignment	The assignment is organized and neat. It follows the assignment requirements. It is turned in on time.	The assignment follows most of the requirements. It is mostly organized. It is legible and mostly neat.	The assignment misses many of the requirements. The organization is confusing. It is somewhat legible and neat.	The assignment does not follow the requirements. It is unorganized. It is not legible or neat.	_ /5
Total					_ /15

The Holocaust

by ReadWorks



The Holocaust refers to the horrific time period from 1933 to 1945 when throughout Europe over six million Jewish men, women, and children were systematically killed by the Nazi government of Germany. This period is one of the most tragic chapters in human history. The Nazi government perceived the Jewish people as an inferior race and a threat to humanity. As a result, the Nazi government, led by Adolph Hitler, organized the mass murder of Jewish people. Their ultimate goal was to kill all Jewish people.

Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, representing the Nazi Party. He hated Jewish people. Soon after he became chancellor, the Nazi government made laws to limit the freedoms of Jewish people. The government also distributed anti-Semitic, or anti-Jewish, propaganda to the German people. Hitler believed that some groups of people were superior to other groups. He believed the Jewish people were not only a religious group; he defined them as a race. Hitler claimed that the Jewish people were a disease to humanity.

The phrase, "The Jewish Question" referred to the question of the role of the Jewish people in society. The Nazi government looked to its own anti-Semitic policies as an answer. The Nazis developed a plan for the extermination of all Jewish people. They called it "The Final Solution to the Jewish Question."

During World War II, the Nazis rounded up Jewish people who were still in Germany and Nazi-controlled territories. Some had already left or were in hiding, but many had decided to stay or had nowhere to go. Allies of Nazi Germany, including Italy and the unoccupied part of France, also rounded up Jewish people. This was one of the ways they contributed to the Nazi agenda.

The Jewish people rounded up by the Nazis and their allies were sent to concentration camps. Most of the Jewish people were sent immediately to camps known as extermination camps, or death camps. The purpose of extermination camps was to kill all the people sent there. Some of the Jewish people were sent to labor camps. The people sent to the labor camps were treated inhumanely and forced to work hard hours. Many died because of the extremely harsh conditions or because of disease. Jewish people who were first sent to labor camps would often be sent to extermination camps as a final destination.

By the middle of 1942, news about "The Final Solution" reached the Allied governments, including the American and British governments, but they were slow to act in response. Critics say that the governments did too little to save the Jewish people. United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt thought that the best method to stop the killings was to defeat the Nazis as quickly as possible. He focused on creating military strategies that would defeat the Nazis as opposed to establishing plans for directly saving the Jewish people. The American government as well as the European governments that made up the Allied governments have been condemned for not doing enough to protect the Jewish people from the cruelty of the Nazi government.

As more and more people found out about the full scope of the Holocaust, they were shocked and horrified. It is important to remember the Holocaust and to study what happened. Only by understanding this bleak part of history can we hope to prevent such horror from happening again.

A History of anti-Semitism

By Encyclopaedia Britannica, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.19.17

Word Count 866

Level 940L



A Croatian Jewish man (left) and a Jewish woman wear the symbol that all Jews in Germany and countries conquered or allied with Germany had to display at all times: a badge made of yellow cloth with the Star of David on it. Photo: AP

Anti-Semitism means hostility toward Jews or prejudice against them as a group. Semites are people from southwestern Asia, and includes both Jews and Arabs. Anti-Semitism, however, usually refers only to discrimination against Jews.

Jews have been discriminated against as a religious group for 2,000 years. Starting in the 1800s, a new form of anti-Semitism appeared. People claimed that Jews belonged to a different, inferior, race. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Nazis persecuted and killed millions of Jews because of their supposed race, even Jews who had converted to other religions or whose parents converted.

Origins of Christian anti-Semitism

In the ancient world, anti-Semitism emerged because of religious differences. Although Jesus and his followers were Jews, Judaism and Christianity became rivals soon after Jesus was killed.

The rivalry between Judaism and Christianity was both religious and political. Christians blamed Jews for Jesus' death and wanted Christianity to replace Judaism. By the 300s, Christians saw

Jews as an alien people because they did not accept Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

Anti-Semitism during the Middle Ages

The Middle Ages took place from the 400s to 1400s. During this period, Jews were denied citizenship and rights in much of Europe. Jews were not allowed to have government jobs. They were also kept out of the trade guilds that craftsmen and merchants belonged to, and helped them to find work. In some places, Jews were forced to wear special clothing, such as a yellow star. At times Jews were attacked and killed. Towns and cities began to require Jews by law to live in separate areas known as ghettos. This segregation lasted until the 1800s and early 1900s in large parts of Europe.

In the late Middle Ages, some Jews became successful in business. Others began envying them. Several countries expelled, or forced out, the Jews. Among the countries that expelled them were England, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal.

But where they were needed, Jews were allowed. Christianity at the time did not allow money lending for interest, and Jews generally were not allowed to own land. For these reasons, Jews played a vital role as moneylenders and traders.

Anti-Semitism in modern Europe

Even in modern Europe, there was much anti-Semitism and Jews continued to be seen as outsiders.

In 1882, Russia took away land owned by Jews. They were forced to live in the towns and cities in the western part in the country. In addition to the anti-Semitic laws, violent mobs attacked Jews—called pogroms—in the Russian Empire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Over the next 40 years, more than a million Jews left the Russian Empire, mainly for the United States.

In the 1900s, the so-called "scientific racism" emerged in Europe. This claimed that Jews were inferior to so-called Aryan (white) "race."

Nazi anti-Semitism and the Holocaust

Under the leadership of Adolf Hitler from 1933 to 1945, the Nazis tried to murder all Jews—men, women, and children. They wanted to wipe Jews off the face of the earth.

In Germany anti-Semitism based on race became official government policy and was taught to children in school. Jews from all over Nazi-occupied Europe were sent to concentration and death camps. They were either killed or forced into slave labor. About six million Jews and millions of others were killed by Nazi Germany.

Anti-Semitism since the Holocaust and outside Europe

After the Nazi defeat in World War II in 1945, anti-Semitism was not acceptable in western Europe and the United States. Even people who were anti-Semitic were hesitant to express it. In the years after the war, American Jews became part of the



culture and society in the United States. Violence against Jews became much less, but still occasionally happened. Recently in Europe, Jewish schools, stores and synagogues have been attacked and Jews, including children, have been killed.

In the late 1900s, the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian churches changed their teachings about Jews. They said Jews were not responsible for killing Jesus and condemned anti-Semitism. Nevertheless, anti-Semitism has persisted in many parts of the world.

For hundreds of years, Islamic societies treated Jews much like other non-Muslims. During the Middle Ages in Muslim Spain, Jews were philosophers, physicians, poets, and writers. They took part in a rich cultural and intellectual life with Muslims and Christians.

State of Israel created in 1948

In 1948, the State of Israel was created in Palestine as a homeland for the Jews. Many Muslims lived in the area where Israel was created. Also, places that are important to Muslims were on the land that is now Israel. This stirred up rage toward Jews within the Arab world. Jews were attacked in Muslim countries through the Middle East. In response, most of the Jewish residents of those countries went to Israel. Today, the Muslim world often does not distinguish between Israelis and Jews who live in other parts of the world. There is still much anger toward Israel, and this often is expressed as anti-Semitism toward Jews as a group.