

8TH GRADE ENGLISH SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

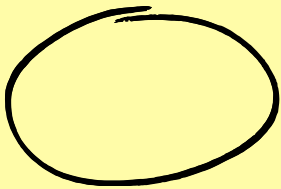
This assignment is designed to prepare you for the type of reading, thinking, and writing you will be doing in 8th grade English. The work you complete this summer will directly support your first literary analysis essay in September.

ANNOTATION GUIDE

Annotating helps you understand the text and prepares you for writing. Your annotations should reflect your thinking as you read. Please follow the annotation guide below.



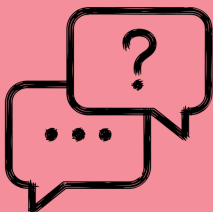
Highlight key words, phrases, and sentences that are important to your understanding of the work. In the margins, write your thoughts or “conversation” with the text.



Circle words you don’t know, then look them up and define them in the margins.



Star provoking paragraphs or pages. Anytime you read and have an emotional response (like sadness, anger, joy, heartache, etc.) put a star next to the passage. It is very likely this information will be useful in analysis later.



Track the following recurring thematic ideas: **betrayal**, **trust**, **family**, **identity**, **courage**, and **right vs. survival** (when Cristian must choose between doing what is right and doing what helps him survive).

Record these ideas using the graphic organizer on the next page.

NAME: _____

I MUST BETRAY YOU

THEME TRACKER + SHORT ANSWER RESPONSE

DIRECTIONS: Use this page to record the page numbers for each theme as you read. You should have **multiple page numbers for each theme** by the end of the book. This will serve as your evidence bank for your essay in September.

| THEME | PAGE NUMBERS |
|--------------------|--------------|
| BETRAYAL | |
| TRUST | |
| FAMILY | |
| IDENTITY | |
| COURAGE | |
| RIGHT VS. SURVIVAL | |

Now that you have tracked important themes throughout the novel, you will use your notes to write a short analytical response.

PROMPT: How does an experience with betrayal affect Cristian, and what does it reveal about him?

DIRECTIONS: Write a well-developed analytical paragraph using the TS-CD-CM1-CM2-CS format:

- TS (Topic Sentence): Answer the prompt clearly
- CD (Concrete Detail): Include one specific, embedded quote from the text (with page #)
- CM1 (Commentary): Explain what this quote shows (without saying "this quote shows")
- CM2 (Commentary): Go deeper—what does this reveal about Cristian?
- CS (Concluding Sentence): Connect back to the theme of betrayal

GRADING CRITERIA

This assignment assesses your ability to track patterns, select strong evidence, and explain what those patterns reveal about a character. It will be scored as a **minor grade**.

| CRITERIA | STRONG (4) | PROFICIENT (3) | DEVELOPING (2) | LIMITED (1) |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| THEME TRACKER | Consistently tracks all themes throughout the novel (evidence of tracking across the beginning, middle, and end), showing consistent engagement with the text. | Tracks all themes with multiple page numbers, though entries may be somewhat uneven or concentrated in certain parts of the text. | Tracks some themes or includes limited page numbers; tracking is inconsistent or incomplete. | Provides few page numbers or leaves multiple themes blank. |
| EVIDENCE | Uses a specific, well-chosen example that clearly reflects the theme of betrayal. | Uses a relevant example, though it may be somewhat general or less precise. | Uses a vague, weak, or partially relevant example. | Lacks a clear or appropriate example from the text. |
| ANALYSIS | Insightfully explains what the betrayal reveals about Cristian; demonstrates clear, thoughtful analysis. | Clearly explains what the betrayal reveals about Cristian; analysis is accurate but may lack depth. | Provides basic or partially explained analysis; may lean toward plot summary. | Shows minimal or unclear understanding; response is mostly plot summary or off-topic. |
| WRITING + STRUCTURE | Follows TS-CD-CM-CM-CS structure clearly; writing is organized, coherent, and polished. | Follows structure with minor lapses; writing is generally clear. | Structure is inconsistent or incomplete; writing may be unclear or uneven. | Lacks clear structure; writing is difficult to follow. |