



Rolling Hills Prep School Summer Reading 2010 Eighth Grade

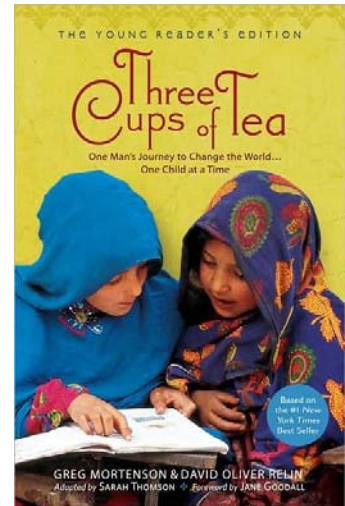
All middle school students are required to read two books: the all-school book and one book for their English classes. Of course, we encourage you to read more! Please see the Suggestions for Further Reading, following this list.

All-School Book for Middle School:

Three Cups of Tea: Young Readers' Edition

By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are asked to read this book and post a response of 100 or more words at <http://rhpusummerreading2010.blogspot.com>. Your social studies teacher will keep track of this assignment. You may wish to respond to discussion questions included at the end of this announcement.



English Department Requirements

Students should expect written assessments on the English Department book early in the fall trimester in their English classes. The sixth and seventh grades will do written assessments in the fall; the eighth grade must complete questions during the summer.

Eighth grade: *April Morning* by Howard Fast. **NOTE: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON EACH CHAPTER MUST BE ANSWERED IN WRITING AND TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FIRST ENGLISH CLASS. QUESTIONS FOLLOW.**

Optional Middle School Discussion Questions on Three Cups of Tea

1. Chapter 1 begins with the sentence “Greg Mortenson was lost.” How can this sentence be understood in a practical sense? How might this sentence be explained from an emotional point of view?
2. Why does Greg decide to build a school for the children of Korphe? In whose honor does Greg intend to build the school? How did you feel when you read that Greg was going to build a school in a remote part of a country far from his home?
3. What obstacles does Greg face in trying to get the school built? What did you learn about his struggles? How does he ultimately succeed? What are three qualities that he has that make it possible for him to fulfill his dream?
4. Greg makes some important friends that help him build the school in Korphe. How do Haji Ali, Twaha and the other people help him? Do they behave as you might have imagined villagers behaving before you read this book? How do the descriptions of Greg’s friendships with these individuals help readers feel more connected to the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan mentioned in the book?
5. How does Haji Ali explain his culture to Greg in terms of “three cups of tea”? Explain the difference between the words “uneducated” and “ignorant in terms of the story. Which characters shared the wisest insights with Greg.
6. Amira Mortenson describes the many sacrifices her family has made so that her father, Greg Mortenson, can continue to help the people of central Asia. Do you think you could make such sacrifices? Why or why not?
7. And finally – What is the most important lesson you have learned from reading this book?



April Morning Instructions

Eighth Grade

Dear Incoming Eighth Graders,

Your summer reading assignment for English will consist of Howard Fast's classic novel of the American Revolution *April Morning*, as well as *Three Cups of Tea* being read as an "all-school" book.

Narrated in the first-person by a 15 year-old boy whose "secure and sun-warmed existence" is violently disrupted by historical events that unfold on one particular day in history, *April Morning* examines both Adam Cooper's coming of age and our country's birth as a free nation.

For the *April Morning* assignment, you will answer one question from each chapter (attached). Please follow the directions for this assignment. It is due on the first day of classes in September. Because we will continue the study of this novel in class, I would recommend reading it and answering the questions in August so that its details will be fresh in your mind.

Have a wonderful summer reading under a tree somewhere, as I'm looking forward to doing, and feel free to read more than is required!

Sincerely,

Ms. Todd



April Morning Questions

Name _____

Answer each question concisely and accurately in a **short** to **medium** length paragraph (4-5 sentences for most of them, but some answers might be a *bit* longer). Please type, labeling each answer by number. Also, please use a clear **14** font and double-space your answers. It is not necessary to rewrite the questions, but you must attach this sheet to your answers. In some cases, direct quotations will help support your answers. If you use them, please punctuate them correctly and cite them correctly by the page number. *Example*: "They shouted at me, but the fact of it was that I didn't feel like a boy any more" (71).

1. "The Afternoon": Describe Adam's relationships with the members of his family, including his father, his mother, his grandmother, and his brother. Try to characterize each relationship specifically, giving examples from the book.
2. "The Evening": Much of this chapter focuses on Committee activities. What exactly is the Committee? Briefly relate their main business. How would you characterize Moses Cooper's position on the Committee?
3. "The Night": Adam makes an extremely important decision in this chapter. How does his mother respond to this decision? How does his father learn of Adam's decision, and how does he (Moses) respond?
4. "The Morning": On pp. 100 and 101, the book reaches its climax as the confrontation with the British turns into a bloodbath. What happens? Describe Adam's reaction to the scene around him.
5. "The Forenoon": At the beginning of this chapter, Adam is in a state of shock over the turn of events on the Common. Whom does he meet, and how does this person help him come to terms with what has transpired?
6. "The Midday": Cousin Simmons tries to explain to Adam why they must risk their lives to fight the British. Summarize the philosophy that drives the men to continue the fight.
7. "The Afternoon": When Adam is shooting at the British from under the windfall, what happens to him? What do you think the author is trying to show by this?
8. "The Evening": In addition to being an historical novel, *April Morning* is a classic coming-of-age story. What evidence exists in this chapter that Adam has changed from a boy into a man?

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BOOK TO SCHOOL!

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

April Morning by Howard Fast

Setting: Lexington, Massachusetts, April 18-19, 1775, on the eve of the American Revolution

Main Characters:

The Coopers: A hard-working Massachusetts farm family

- Adam, 15, is a sensitive teenager who struggles for the love and respect of his strict father.
- Levi, 11, is Adam's pesky little brother. They fight, as siblings do, but they share a deep affection.
- Moses Cooper, Adam's father, is a proud, demanding, and fiercely principled man. He loves Adam but accuses him of immaturity and a poor work ethic. He wants him to grow up and accept more adult responsibilities.
- Sarah Cooper, Adam's mother, is a loving and caring woman. She tries to persuade her husband to be kinder to his son.
- Granny Cooper, Adam's grandmother, is a wise, no-nonsense, opinionated, affectionate friend to Adam. Adam turns to her for understanding and affirmation.

The Simmonses: The Coopers' distant cousins, friends, and neighbors

- Joseph Simmons, Ruth's father, is Adam's quiet, thoughtful, sincere neighbor. He is instrumental in helping Adam cope with the shocking events as the day unfolds.
- Mrs. Simmons, Joseph's wife and Ruth's mother, appears briefly as a dedicated, religious woman. She has a widowed sister who lives with the family.
- Ruth Simmons is Adam's girlfriend. Though they are very young, Ruth and Adam share conversations about the future which discuss Adam's role in the impending battle and their prospective life together.

The Reverend Clarke (a real historical figure) is the town's temperate, wise, and honored spiritual leader who helps Adam come to terms with the reality of their changing life in Lexington. A pacifist, as all the men are, he is involved in both the Committee and the militia.

Jonas Parker (a real historical figure whose first name, John, has been changed by Fast to Jonas) is the Captain of the Militia. He conducts the Committee meetings and commands

the militia. The graphic on this page depicts the statue that stands in his honor on Lexington Green.

Solomon Chandler is an old veteran soldier of the French and Indian Wars who helps Adam overcome his panic after the battle on the common. Though he is kind and understanding to Adam, Adam quickly discovers that his philosophy of war directly conflicts with the Lexington men's.



Suggestions for Further Reading – Eighth Grade

The books on this list represent a wide variety of interests and are generally accepted to be works of literary merit worthy of serious analysis; indeed, many of them are prize-winners with well-established reputations of excellence. Some books are more challenging than others and should therefore be appropriate for more advanced readers, but there is definitely something for everyone.

General Fiction/Classics

- Alcott, *Little Women; Little Men; Eight Cousins;*
A Long, Fatal Love Chase
- Armstrong, *Souder*
- Austen, *Pride and Prejudice; Emma;*
Persuasion
- Avi, *Nothing but the Truth*
- Brashares, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling*
Pants; The Second Summer of the Sisterhood
- Bronte, Charlotte, *Jane Eyre*
- Bronte, Emily, *Wuthering Heights*
- Buck, *The Good Earth*
- Bunting, *Jumping the Nail*
- Cole, *The Goats*
- Cormier, *The Chocolate War*
- Courtney, *The Power of One*
- Cushman, *The Midwife's Apprentice*
- Dickens, *Oliver Twist; David Copperfield;*
Great Expectations
- George, *My Side of the Mountain*
- Gibbons, *Ellen Foster*
- Gipson, *Old Yeller*
- Gordon, Sheila, *Waiting for the Rain*
- Gordon, Amy, *When JFK Was My Father; The*
Gorillas of Gill Park (7th only)
- Green, *The Summer of My German Soldier*
(7th only)
- Hamilton, *A White Romance*
- Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*
- Hilton, *Good-bye Mr. Chips*
- Hoffman, *At Risk; Green Angel*
- Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- Johnson, *Toning the Sweep*
- Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*
- Kinsella, *Shoeless Joe*
- Knowles, *A Separate Peace; Peace Breaks Out*
(sequel)
- Levenkron, *The Best Little Girl in the World*
- London, *The Call of the Wild*
- Lowry *The Silent Boy*
- Marshall, C., *Christy*
- Marshall, J.V., *Walkabout*
- Mazer, *After the Rain*
- McCammon, *Boy's Life*
- McCullers, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*
- Mishima, *The Sound of Waves*
- Myers, *Hoops; Monster*
- Nolan, *Dancing on the Edge*
- Oates, *Big Mouth & Ugly Girl,*
- Paterson, *Jacob Have I Loved*
- Peck, *The Day No Pigs Would Die; A Year Down*
Yonder
- Potok, *The Chosen; My Name is Asher Lev; Davita's*
Harp
- Rawlings, *The Yearling*
- Rawls, *Where the Red Fern Grows*
- Reiss, *The Upstairs Room*
- Richter, *The Light in the Forest*
- Saroyan, *My Name is Aram*
- Schaefer, *Shane*
- Sebestyen, *Words by Heart*
- Shusterman, *The Eyes of Kid Midas;*
Dissidents
- Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
Spinelli, *Stargirl*
Steinbeck, *The Pearl; The Red Pony*
Taylor, M., *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*
Taylor, T., *The Cay; The Bomb*
Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson; Tom Sawyer*
Villareal, *Poncho*
Walter, *The Girl on the Outside*
White, Robb, *Deathwatch*

Historical Fiction

Auel, *The Clan of the Cave Bear*
Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*
(7th only)
Clapp, *Witches' Children* (may be out of
print; check the library)
Collier, *My Brother Sam is Dead*
Crane, *The Red Badge of Courage*
Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*
Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*
Hunt, *Across Five Aprils*
Lasky, *Beyond the Burning Time*
Mitchell, *Gone With the Wind*
Moskin, *I Am Rosemarie*
Myers, *Fallen Angels; The Glory Field*
O'Dell, *Sing Down the Moon*
Petry, *Tituba of Salem Village*
Pressler, *Shylock's Daughter*
Rees, *Witch Child*
Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Rinaldi, *A Break With Charity; The Fifth of March*
Roberts, *Northwest Passage*
Scott, *Ivanhoe*
Shaara, *The Killer Angels; Rise to Rebellion*
Uchida, *Journey to Topaz*
Walker, *Jubilee*

Fantasy/Science Fiction

Adams, R., *Watership Down*
Asimov, *Foundation Trilogy*;
Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*
Bradbury, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*;
Dandelion Wine; Fahrenheit 451
Card, *Pastwatch: The Redemption of Christopher*
Columbus
Clarke, *Childhood's End; 2001: A Space Odyssey*;
2010: Odyssey Two
Crichton, *The Andromeda Strain* (this title only)
Goldman, *The Princess Bride*
Heinlein, *Stranger in a Strange Land*
Herbert, *Dune Trilogy*
Hilton, *Lost Horizon*
Huxley, *Brave New World*
Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*
Jacques, *Redwall*
Jones, *Dogsbody*
Keyes, *Flowers for Algernon*
Le Guin, *A Wizard of Earthsea*
L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time; A Swiftly Tilting*
Planet; A Wind in the Door
Lowry, *Gathering Blue*
McKinley, *The Hero and the Crown; The Blue*
Sword
O'Brien, *Z for Zachariah*
Orwell, *Animal Farm; 1984*
Paolini, *Eragon + Sequels*
Pope, *The Perilous Gard*
St. Exupéry, *The Little Prince*
Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and*
Mr. Hyde
Stoker *Dracula*
Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy*

Verne, *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea; Around the World in Eighty Days; Journey to the Center of the Earth*
Wells, *The Time Machine; The Invisible Man; The War of the Worlds*
Wrede and Stevermer, *Sorcery and Cecelia, or The Enchanted Chocolate Pot*

Action/Mystery/Suspense

Borland, *When the Legends Die*
Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
Christie, *Death on the Nile; The Murder of Roger Ackroyd; Nemesis (not And Then There Were None)*
Conan Doyle, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; (not The Hound of the Baskervilles)*
Cormier, *After the First Death*
Dumas, *The Three Musketeers; The Count of Monte Cristo*
DuMaurier, *Rebecca; Jamaica Inn*
Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
Junger, *The Perfect Storm*
King, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*
Krakauer, *Into Thin Air*
Nordhoff, *Mutiny on the Bounty*
Paulsen, *Hatchet; The Haymeadow*
Poe, *Great Tales of Terror*
Preston, *The Hot Zone*
Read, *Alive*
Smith, *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency + Sequels*
Stevenson, *Treasure Island; Kidnapped*
White, *The Sword in the Stone*
Wyss, *The Swiss Family Robinson*

Biography/Autobiography

Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
Anonymous, *Go Ask Alice*
Armstrong, *It's Not About the Bike*
Beals, *Warriors Don't Cry*
Blackwell, *First Woman Doctor*
Conroy, *The Water is Wide*
Curie *Madame Curie*
Crowe, *Getting Away with Murder: the True Story of the Emmett Till Case*
Dahl, *Boy*
Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*
Goodwin, *Wait Till Next Year*
Gunther, *Death Be Not Proud*
Haley, *Roots*
Hautzig, *The Endless Steppe*
Herriot, *All Creatures Great and Small*
Keller, *The Story of My Life*
Lovell & Kluger, *Apollo 13 (formerly Lost Moon)*
Mathabane, *Kaffir Boy*
Pearce, *Amelia Earhart*
Petry, *Harriet Tubman: Conductor of the Underground Railway*
Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln*
Simon, *Jackie Robinson and the Integration of Baseball*
Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley*
Wiesel, *Night*

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