

Week of April 20-24, 2020

Mrs. Swigart

Hello! I hope everyone is doing well. My “office hours” will be Monday 1-3, Tuesday 11-1, and Thursday 3-5. Of course, you can always email me and I will try to get back to you as soon as I can. Please feel free to email me any questions you may have. As far as turning in work goes, you can either share a doc with me, or turn it into the school. Hard copies are at the school so you don’t need to print anything. Loose leaf paper works for me as well for turning in assignments. I do ask that your name is written, with the date, class period, and the choice number. Again, please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything.

Miss you! - Mrs. Swigart

Class	Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3 (Enrichment)
7th Grade Literature	Read a book of your choosing for 30 minutes. Then pick one prompt from the Independent Reading Journal Prompts Options. Your explanations should be at least a paragraph long (8-10 sentences). If you choose a project, please use complete sentences.	Write for 30-40 minutes. It can be a free write, journal entry, creative writing, poetry, etc. It should be 1-2 pages in length.	Nonfiction Reading “A Tale of Two Countries” Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Swigart
7th Lit.
Choice 1

April 20-24

Independent Reading Journal Prompts page 1

Following is a list of journal prompts. Use whatever helps you to arrive at good, interesting reflections. Remember, your journal entries should be your reflections, connecting your novel to universal ideas, current events, history, yourself, etc. Also, pay attention to the writer's craft. Have fun!

Please label your journal entry.

- Describe the problem/conflict of this book.
- Summarize the main events in this book so far.
- Who is your favorite or least favorite character? Why?
- Do any of the characters remind you of yourself, a family member, or a friend? How?
- Are there situations in the story where you would have acted differently than one of the characters? Describe what you would have done.
- Compare and contrast two characters. Include at least three important similarities and three important differences.
- Describe the setting (time and place). Does it remind you of anywhere you are familiar with?
- Describe the climax (the turning point of the story when the action reaches a critical point).
- What do you like best about the story? The least? Why?
- Does this story remind you of other books you have read, movies you have seen, or experiences you have had? Describe the similarities.
- Write a letter to a friend recommending this book.
- If you could ask the author one question, what would it be? Why do you want to know this?
- Why do you think the author wrote this selection?
- What did the author do in order to "hook" the reader? Explain.
- What "pictures" does the author create in your mind? Draw and describe them.
- Have you learned anything interesting that you didn't know before reading this selection? Explain.
- Are the characters believable? Why or why not?
- Write a letter to one of the characters giving him/her advice on how to handle a problem or situation he/she is facing. Be sure to include a greeting and a closing.
- If you could spend one day with a character, who would it be and what would you do? Explain why you chose these activities for this particular character.
- How has the main character changed over the course of the story? What do you think is the cause of the change?
- What was the best part of this book? Explain.
- Are there any parts you would change? Explain.
- How did you feel while reading this book? Why did you feel this way?
- Pretend you are a character in the story. Write a diary entry as the character, explaining what has happened to you and how you feel about it.
- Using the text, illustrate a descriptive passage, a key scene, or a character (this should take some time and effort . . . no stick figures!). Describe the picture.
- Create a timeline of important events in the story. Give corresponding page numbers by each event.
- What are two attributes that describe a particular character? Give at least two examples for each attribute that support your opinion.
- Prepare an interview with your favorite character in the book. Prepare at least 10 questions to ask the character. Write the character's answers to the questions.
- Cast the film version of the book. Decide which real life actors and actresses should play the parts of the main characters. Include photos and descriptions of the stars you've selected and an explanation of why each is "perfect" for the part.

- Turn the book or a portion of it into a comic book with comic-style illustrations and dialogue bubbles.
- Create a poem that a character in the book would write. The poem may focus on a situation in the book or describe how the character feels about what is happening.
- Write a postscript or a continuation to the story, explaining future occurrences in the characters' lives.
- Write a letter from one character to another.
- Design a travel brochure focusing on the setting of the book. Include a map with explanatory notes of significant places. Describe the type of activities that tourists might find there.
- Create the front page of a newspaper based on the events in the book.
- Develop a fact sheet about the book, listing 10 facts that you learned from reading it. The facts must be written in complete sentences and include details you didn't know before reading the book.
- Design a book jacket for the book. Include an original book blurb and information about the author on the jacket along with your review comments. The jacket should "sell" the book to other readers.
- Make a list of 10 or 15 rules by which the main character in the book lives. Tell how these rules compare to the rules you live by. Tell how the character's life would have been different if you had been living it.
- Pretend that you are a fortune-teller and predict what each of the main characters will be doing in their lives ten years after the story ends. Explain your prediction for each character.
- Write a letter of recommendation for one of the main characters in the book. It can be a letter of recommendation for a job or for college admission. Discuss the good and bad points of the character and why you are recommending that character for the job or school.

(taken from Mr. Crumb and L. Cornwell)

I liked the way that the writer...

I didn't like...because...

This novel makes me realize...

The most important thing about this novel is...

If I were (name of character), I would (wouldn't) have

What happened in the novel was very realistic (unrealistic) because...

I agree (disagree) with the writer about ...

I think the title is a good (strange/misleading) choice because....

A better title for this book would be...because....

In my opinion, the most important word (sentence/paragraph) in this novel is...because...

If I could talk to (name of character), I would say...

The novel is similar to (different from) other novels I have read because...

The novel is similar to (different from) other novels by this writer because ...

Nonfiction Reading Test

A Tale of Two Countries

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

Some call it the "Hermit Kingdom." It is a place where the outside world has been walled off. American pop music is illegal here and you can get executed for watching soap operas. This is not a make-believe world in a science fiction novel. It's a 46,000 square mile nation hanging off the east coast of China. It is one of the poorest nations in the world and it is armed with nuclear weapons. It is North Korea.

Immediately to the south lies a nation with one of the world's richest economies. About one-third of all phones and TVs are made here. The people of this nation are among the world's most educated. Unemployment is low, job security is high, and workers in this nation enjoy the highest salaries in Asia. It is South Korea. The people of this nation share origins with their northern neighbor, but they have since grown far apart.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (known to Westerners as North Korea) was founded in 1945 after World War II. Their neighbor at the end of the Korean Peninsula, South Korea or the Republic of Korea, was established at the same time. These two nations have an unusual history. For one thing, they have technically been at war since 1950.

Though they were born at the same time, these two countries had different parents. The United States supported South Korea in its infancy. China and the Soviet Union supported North Korea. The U.S. and the Soviet Union may have ended World War II as allies, but they had different ways of organizing their societies.

The U.S. is a capitalist country. That means that some people are rich and some people are poor. Resources are distributed unevenly. Business are owned by private entities. The Soviet Union claimed to have a communist system. That means that everybody supposedly gets the same. Resources are distributed more evenly. Business are owned in "common" by the government. These two superpower nations raised North and South Korea in their own images.



The two Koreas went to war in 1950. The North attacked and took over much of South Korea. But the United States jumped in and pushed the North Koreans back to the Chinese border. Then China got involved and pushed the Americans and South Koreans back. The nations agreed to a ceasefire. Millions of people were dead and the living returned to their original boundaries. The war never officially ended, though combat has ceased for the most part.

After the war, South Korea was one of the poorest nations in the world. In 1960 the average citizen made \$79 a year. The country did not have a lot of natural resources to sell, but they did have many hardworking people. During the 1960s, the country began manufacturing labor-intensive products. Selling these products to people in other nations made South Korea rich. They now have one of the largest and most thriving economies in the world. As of 2012, the average South Korean citizen makes around \$32,020 a year.

The economy of North Korea is dramatically different. Since its birth in the 1940s, North Korea has been one of the most secluded countries in the world. They promote an idea of self-reliance that they call *Juche*. Under this idea, they do little to no trading with other nations. Up until the 1980s, they received large cash infusions from China and the Soviet Union. But the Soviet Union fell apart in the 80s and became separate capitalist countries, of which Russia is largest. Without the Soviet contributions, North Korea entered a long period of *famine* that lasted through the 90s. Food was hard to come by and some estimate that millions of people starved to death. Still, the country persisted when much of the world thought that it would fall apart. Not only did they survive, they managed to build a nuclear arsenal during this time.

North Korea and South Korea share a border. Since they are locked in state of perpetual war, it's not a regular boarder with a simple checkpoint. The border they share is known as a "demilitarized zone." A demilitarized zone is supposed to be free from military installations. Yet, the Korean Demilitarized Zone is the most heavily militarized border in the world. Both nations have their biggest guns lined-up on the divide and pointed at the other side. It is literally the opposite of what the phrase "demilitarized zone" implies.

Some day Korea may be unified again. It seems unlikely now, but stranger things have happened. Yet, even if they did unify, how could these very different societies acclimate to one another? They have grown in different directions. One country is among the wealthiest, the other amongst the poorest. The average North Korean male is estimated to be five-inches shorter than a South Korean (some suspect because of malnutrition). With such big differences, will they ever be able to see eye to eye?

1. Which term best describes South Korea based on information from the text?

- a. capitalist
- b. communist
- c. socialist
- d. totalitarian

2. Based on the author's tone and viewpoint, which person would most likely **disagree** with the conclusions drawn in this text?

- a. An American businessman
- b. A South Korean businessman
- c. A North Korean politician
- d. A South Korean politician

3. Which statement would the author most likely **agree** with?

- a. The Korean War was a major win for the United States of America.
- b. North Korea is poor because they don't trade with many other nations.
- c. South Korean people are naturally more gifted than their northern brethren.
- d. The South Korean economy grew at an average pace after 1960.

4. Which statement best expresses the main idea of the **seventh** paragraph?

- a. South Korea was a very poor nation in 1960.
- b. South Korea makes a lot of money by trading natural resources.
- c. South Korea had a remarkable economic turnaround.
- d. South Korea produces many electronic products.

5. Which statement best describes the results of the Korean War?

- a. The South Koreans gained a lot of ground after winning the war.
- b. The North Koreans benefitted tremendously from the war.
- c. The Korean War led to the formation of South Korea.
- d. Both sides lost many people and got little to show for it.

6. Which best defines the word **famine** as it is used in the eighth paragraph?

- a. A period of time when food is scarce
- b. A period of time when it is hard to get laborers
- c. A period of time when the government is going through a transition
- d. A period of time when a country does not have a leader

7. What is ironic about the Korean Demilitarized Zone?
 - a. It is not the average border with a simple checkpoint.
 - b. It is free from military installations and weaponry.
 - c. It is the most militarized border in the world.
 - d. The North and South Koreans are technically still at war.

8. Which best describes how the text is structured in the fifth paragraph?
 - a. Chronological order
 - b. Compare and contrast
 - c. Sequence
 - d. Problem and solution

9. Which best explains why so many North Koreans starved during the 1990s?
 - a. The North Koreans had just recently lost the Korean War.
 - b. The North Koreans were abandoned by their allies in the U.S.
 - c. North Korea became a capitalist country.
 - d. The Soviet Union stopped supporting North Korea.

10. Which statement would the author most likely **disagree** with?
 - a. It is impressive that the North Koreans built nuclear weaponry during a famine.
 - b. The North Korean economy has made an amazing transformation since the 1960s.
 - c. North and South Koreans have grown to be different, but they come from the same place.
 - d. Unification of the two Koreas is unlikely at this time.

1. What made the Korean War particularly tragic? Support your argument with a quote from the text. Explain what your quote shows and thoughtfully conclude your argument.

2. What is one thing that readers can learn from this text? Cite several pieces of text to support your point. Be sure to explain what the text is showing.

3. In what ways have the two Koreas grown apart? Discuss two ways in which they have grown apart and support each of your points with text. Be sure to explain your quotes. Make your argument clear.
