

NAME _____

ENGLISH 9/MRS. SCHLEIFER

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

This is the summer reading assignment for students entering ninth grade at Yonkers Montessori Academy in September 2021. Please read the assignment, directions, and requirements carefully. The goal of summer reading is to maintain and enhance your reading, writing, and vocabulary skills while you are away from school. Summer reading will be collected when students return in September and a test will be given.

Required Reading: The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom

This story follows the life and death of Eddie, an elderly maintenance worker at an amusement park, who on his way to heaven encounters five people who had a significant impact on him while he was alive. Each person has a lesson to teach him about the meaning of life. This book is widely available at the library, in bookstores, and online. If you have a public library card, you may request it through the Westchester Library System.

Assignment: As you read each section, complete the study guide questions. Write in complete sentences and make sure you answer all parts of each question. Follow the directions on each page of the Vocabulary Assignment.

The 1st Lesson:

The Person: _____ **The Setting:** _____

Why do you think the author has the reader look at the story from different points of view – the Blue Man and Eddie’s?

What does Eddie learn from the Blue Man? Find a quote to support what you say. Include the page number.

Describe at least one event in your life that might have changed who you have become if it had happened differently.

The 2nd Lesson:

The Person: _____ **The Setting:** _____

What did the captain do that changed Eddie's life? Why?

What lesson does the captain teach Eddie? Find a quote to support what you say. Include the page number.

In your opinion, which of the first two lessons do you think is more important, the Blue Man's or the Captain's? Explain why.

The 3rd Lesson:

The Person: _____ *The Setting:* _____

What was Eddie's relationship with his father like? Why do you think his father was the way he was?

Briefly summarize Ruby's story and then explain her significance to Eddie.

What lesson does Ruby teach Eddie? Find a quote to support what you say. Include the page number.

The 4th Lesson:

The Person: _____ *The Setting:* _____

Why does Marguerite want to be in a place where there are only weddings?

Eddie's fourth lesson is that love lives beyond mere physical presence, and it lives not just in our hearts but also in our memories. Love is specific. Love is forever. Love has multiple forms. Find a quote to support this view of love. Include the page number. What is your opinion of these statements?

The 5th Lesson:

The Person: _____ *The Setting:* _____

Eddie says, "I was sad because I didn't do anything with my life. I was nothing. I accomplished nothing." What do you think of this assessment of his life? Give specific examples to support your claim.

On the final page of the novel, Albom writes that "Each affects the other and the other affects the next, and the world is full of stories, but the stories are all one." Now that you've finished the story, what do you think about this statement?

The Five People You Meet in Heaven: Vocabulary Set 1

Directions: Fill in the parts of speech and find the definition for each word.

1. **Abhorred-** (_____)

Baby Jaime **abhorred** eating broccoli and whenever her parents tried to sneak a piece in during dinner she spit it out.

2. **Aspire-** (_____)

Megan **aspired** to be a great singer one day that she practiced daily and joined the choir at her local church.

3. **Bandoliers -** (_____)

Standing at 8 feet tall, Chewbacca is covered with long hair, and wears only a **bandolier**.

4. **Barker-** (_____)

When I drove past the mall there was a **barker** standing outside the furniture store holding a sign that said they were holding a 50 percent of sale on all their merchandise.

5. **Boardwalk-** (_____)

Every summer I drive down to the beach and walk on the **boardwalk**.

6. **Flux-**(_____)

Life is always in constant **flux**, you never know what tomorrow holds.

7. **Gaunt-**(_____)

I recently watched a commercial that displayed animals who were **gaunt** and it made me feel upset that the pet's owners would mistreat animals in that manner!

8. **Gingerly-** (_____)

Selma also uses her fingertip, touching Iris's wound, to **gingerly** treat it.

9. **Gravity-** (_____)

The **gravity** in his voice made her afraid of what was to come.

10. **Gurney-** (_____)

Brad hurt his back while renovating his house so his wife called the ambulance and he was taken the hospital in a **gurney**.

11. **Mundane-** (_____).

Doing weekly chores is so **mundane** that I nearly fall asleep doing them.

12. **Murky-** (_____)

I jumped over the deep and **murky** puddle on my way home from school.

13. **Nubs-** (_____)

The sponge is rough with its irregular pits and **nubs** covering its surface.

14. **Oblivious-** (_____)

They were absorbed in the video game and **oblivious** to the other guests at the party.

15. **Plummet** - (_____)

The worst part of being on top of the rollercoaster ride, was anticipating for the cart to **plummet** back down!

The Five People You Meet in Heaven: Vocabulary Set 2

Directions: Fill in the parts of speech and find the definition for each word. Create your own sentence for the words that are blank.

1. **Burly**- (_____)

Sentence: _____

2. **Cacophony**-(_____)

We were greeted by a **cacophony** of sound as we entered the Sweet Sixteen reception.

3. **Cadmium**-(_____)

Alloying elements such as copper, antimony, bismuth, **cadmium**, and silver increase its hardness.

4. **Commodity**-(_____)

Sentence: _____

5. **Conjoined**-(_____)

Recently a **conjoined** set of twins were separated in a highly dangerous operation, which was successful.

6. **Hydraulic**-(_____)

The **hydraulic** windmill provided electricity to the neighboring town.

7. **Incandescent**-(_____)

Sentence: _____

8. **Inexplicably**-(_____)

Sentence: _____

9. **Iridescent**-(_____)

Many dragonflies have brilliant **iridescent** or metallic colors, making them visible in flight.

10. **Jetty**-(_____)

During the crash, the right door of the boat fell on the **jetty** and there was heavy smoke.

11. **Pristine**-(_____)

The bike was in **pristine** condition, despite being over 50 years old and still worked.

12. **Promenade**-(_____)

High-rise hotels and towers line the district's New Waterfront, marina and seaside **promenade**.

13. **Protocol**-(_____)

George broke **protocol** when he approached the queen without being summoned.

14. Pursued-(_____)

Sentence: _____

15. Roustabouts -(_____)

The circus train held 400 performers and **roustabouts**.

The Five People You Meet in Heaven: Vocabulary Set 3

Directions: Fill in the parts of speech, find the definition and create your own sentence for each word.

1. Craggy-(_____)

Sentence: _____

2. Deflected- (_____)

Sentence: _____

3. Feign- (_____)

Sentence: _____

4. Firmament- (_____

Sentence: _____

5. Flume- (_____)

Sentence: _____

6. Kiosk- (_____)

Sentence: _____

7. Lanky- (_____)

Sentence: _____

8. Lathe- (_____)

Sentence: _____

9. Misshapen- (_____)

Sentence: _____

10. Mottled- (_____)

Sentence: _____

11. Sallow- (_____)

Sentence: _____

12. Seethes- (_____)

Sentence: _____

13. Semaphore- (_____)

Sentence: _____

14. Sheepishly- (_____)

Sentence: _____

15. Shingles- (_____)

Sentence: _____

CHALLENGE: Start the year with Extra Credit! Read Mitch's Albom's sequel: **The Next Person You Meet in Heaven** and write a paragraph response to each of the following questions. Typed work is preferred.

- A. What characteristics or qualities of the protagonist (main character) do you admire most and why?
- B. Describe a challenge the protagonist faced and how s/he changed as a result.
- C. What part of the book made you think? Describe that section, why it caught your attention, and what it made you think.

Any questions: e-mail eschleifer@yonkerspublicschools.org or send a chat through TEAMS