

Summer Reading Packet for Incoming Sophomores
Linfield Christian School

Welcome to Sophomore English! We are so glad that God has brought you into this class and we are excited about next year. In order to successfully prepare for the school year, you will need to read *Seven Men and the Secret of Their Greatness* (gentlemen) or *Seven Women and the Secret of Their Greatness* (ladies) by Eric Metaxas and complete the corresponding assignment this summer:

The assignment must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font. The first page must have the following in the upper left corner, double spaced:

Your Name

Mrs. Conner

English II

Due Date

Each subsequent page needs your last name in the upper right corner with the page number:

Conner 1

This assignment is due the first day of class. Please have your pages printed and stapled together before coming into class.

We will also have quizzes on the book the first week of school.

Happy Reading! See you in the Fall!

In Christ's service,
Mrs. Conner

You must complete the following 16 short essay questions based on the book that you read. Each person is in a separate “chapter” that stands alone. We are looking for complete sentences, good analysis, and support of your points. Each question needs to extend beyond a one sentence answer. Be thoughtful and thorough. **Ladies - Your questions follow the 7 Men questions.**

Seven Men and the Secret of Their Greatness - Short Essay Questions

Introduction

1. In the introduction when talking about authority, Metaxas says that “we’ve gone all the way from foolishly accepting all authority to foolishly rejecting all authority. We’ve gone from the extreme of being naïve to the other extreme of being cynical” (xv). Explain what he means. Discuss the dangers of being foolishly trusting. Discuss the dangers of being foolishly cynical. Have you ever trusted authority too much? Have you ever been too cynical and questioning of authority?

Washington

2. When Washington is given the command to unite and lead the 13 colony militias, he writes to his brother-in-law, “I can answer but for three things: a firm belief in the justice of our cause; close attention in the prosecution of it; and the strictest integrity” (14). What is he promising and why? Why does he not promise victory?
3. What did you learn from Washington’s example? How has your understanding of him changed?

Wilberforce

4. What was Milner’s influence on Wilberforce and what problem did it create for Wilberforce?
5. Explain the two Great Objects to which Wilberforce dedicated himself.
6. Why was it important for Wilberforce to NOT be a Lone Ranger in his endeavors?
7. What did Wilberforce mean by he needed to “make goodness fashionable” (49)? Comment on how the wealthy viewed their own wealth and how they viewed those who did not have wealth.

Liddell

8. Why does Metaxas indicate that if Liddell had run the 100 yard dash at the Olympics, he would not be famous today?
9. Metaxas reveals that New York Times writer David Brooks wrote an article claiming that “the charitable aspect of the Christian faith was at odds with the killer instinct needed to win in

athletic competition, so that serious faith was a hindrance to victory” (65). How does this apply to Eric Liddell? Why does Metaxas include it in his writing about Liddell?

Bonhoeffer

10. In the Bonhoeffer household how did believing and acting go together?

11. Summarize the significance of Bonhoeffer’s time in New York. What epiphany did he have?

Jackie Robinson

12. Why was it important for Branch Rickey to find someone who would “not fight back” despite the injustices that would be experienced?

Pope John Paul II

13. Pope John Paul II seemed to be a man of contradictions to many, but Metaxas indicates that the Pope’s views came from one source. What was it?

Charles Colson

14. In Phillips’ conversations with Colson, what did Phillips point out was at the heart of Colson’s problems? What famous author did Phillips use to get his point across? How did Colson respond?

15. Based on Hebrews 2:11, what realization did Colson have in prison? How did it help him find his purpose? What was that purpose?

16. How does Colson compare to Wilberforce?

Seven Women and the Secret of Their Greatness

Introduction

1. What does the author say struck him 'wrong' about the suggestions he was getting for women to put in the book? Sum up his conclusions about pitting men and women against each other.

Joan of Arc

2. What finally convinced the Governor Baudricourt to allow Joan to go to Chinon to see the Dauphin? How did the citizens of Chinon react as she rode into town and why?

3. On page 13, Metaxas records the character of Joan with a series of paradoxes. What are they?

4. Explain the problem with Joan wearing men's clothing in the prison. How did Cauchon and his people make it impossible for her to obey the terms of the document she signed? Was there any way for Joan to win in this situation? What was the ultimate goal of Cauchon and his men?

Susanna Wesley

5. Summarize how Susanna's refusal to acknowledge King William III as England's true king created problems in her marriage. Do you think that was the real problem for her husband? Why?

6. In what ways were Susanna's ideas of education not the same as what was deemed normal at the time? What did she do differently?

Hannah More

7. What beliefs about education does Hannah hold in common with Susanna Wesley? Why is this belief important?

8. Metaxas comments that, "She [Hannah] did not wish to retreat from culture into a religious sphere, but rather to "advance with the wisdom and truth of religion into the cultural sphere" (70). What was she trying to accomplish? She was going against the prevailing Christian attitude of the day. What was that attitude (see the later paragraph that expresses Samuel Johnson's point of view)? What did Hannah believe about Christian art and drama?

9. What are the Two Great Objects to which Wilberforce dedicated his life and for which Hannah became his greatest collaborator? What did Hannah contribute that began to change the hearts and minds of people toward the idea of slavery?

Saint Maria of Paris

10. Whom does Metaxas claim Saint Maria is a parallel to in history (what other male figure)? What is it that Metaxas means when he says, "Both were less interested in meeting the

expectations of their own church denomination than in helping their denomination meet the expectations of God himself” (86).

11. Practicing asceticism was thought to be a requirement for nuns and priests in Maria’s time. What were her thoughts about focusing on asceticism and church hierarchy? (hint – page 98-99, 108).

Corrie ten Boom

12. Corrie and her sister Betsy react differently when they find out who had betrayed their family (Jan Vogel). Contrast their reactions. How did Betsy’s words affect Corrie that night?

13. What lesson was Betsy teaching Corrie when she asked that they thank God for the fleas? How did God bless that prayer?

Rosa Parks

14. What important lesson did Miss White instill in Rosa?

15. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Some of us must bear the burden of trying to save the soul of America” (150). Explain what he means and how Rosa Parks exemplifies this quote.

Mother Teresa

16. When Mother Teresa was in the Loreto convent, she was serving God as her superiors instructed. However, her ‘call within a call’ from God changed the way she served. How did Mother Teresa change ministry to the poor from the way it was normally done? (172-175). What was her attitude when people tried to call her heroic or extraordinary?