



2026 – 2027 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

10th Grade
Mrs. Dick
ENG II

READING REQUIREMENT

- *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

ASSIGNMENT

Who's the Man? Stephen Kumalo and Kino: A Study in Manhood

This summer you will read two powerful stories of the trials and tribulations of two of the greatest characters in literature. In *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton, the Reverend Stephen Kumalo faces many extreme hardships. His faith is put to the ultimate test, and in the end he passes with flying colors. In *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck, we witness the struggles of Kino, who has been significantly battered by his desire to provide a better life for his family. While both stories differ greatly, as readers we are given two very distinct portraits of manhood.

Ernest Hemingway, another famous author, says that **“to be a man is to behave with honor and dignity: to not succumb to suffering, to accept one’s duty without complaint, and most importantly, to display a maximum degree of self control.”** In this assignment, you will be showing through your words how Kumalo and Kino live up to this definition of manhood.

In the first few days of school, you will participate in a graded discussion and take a short written quiz over each novel. To prepare, you will place SIX Post-It notes in each book as you read. These will mark important passages in each novel (12 total). Your annotations should help you think more deeply about the novel’s themes, characters, and writing style and provide you with notes for the graded discussion.

Required Sticky Notes:

1. Courageous Manhood (2 sticky notes)

- Place TWO sticky notes on different parts of each novel where Kumalo or Kino demonstrates courageous manhood.
- Include the page number and a brief explanation of how each man shows courage, integrity, responsibility, humility, forgiveness, or perseverance

2. Discussion Question (1 sticky note) – include the page number

- Write ONE thoughtful discussion question about the reading.
- Must require explanation and discussion (NOT a simple “yes” or “no”)
- Should connect to character, theme, conflict, symbolism, or author’s message

3. Passage You Love (1 sticky note) – include the page number

- Mark ONE passage you especially admire because it is descriptive, emotionally powerful, beautifully worded, or meaningful.
- On the note write 1–2 sentences explaining what makes the writing effective

4. Personal Connection (1 sticky note) – include the page number

- Mark ONE passage that reminds you of something in your own life or specifically connects to another book, movie, or show
- Briefly explain the connection (this should be significant, not “Kino wears shoes, I have shoes”)

5. Super Sleuth (1 sticky note) – include the page number

- Write ONE sticky note for a page containing an unfamiliar vocabulary word you looked up, or a historical, cultural, or contextual reference you researched to better understand the novel.

Of course, if you are an overachiever and can’t limit yourself to one or two notes, feel free to mark more in each book. I look forward to hearing your ideas in discussion! 😊

DUE DATE

Bring both of your annotated books to class on the first day of school.

GRADING / EXPECTATIONS

Your grade will be based on both the quality of your annotations and your participation in discussion. Strong annotations:

- are thoughtful and specific and include meaningful commentary (not just summaries)
- connect to theme, characterization, literary devices, or author’s craft
- use page numbers and clear explanations

During discussion, students are expected to:

- actively participate
- refer to their sticky notes and the text
- contribute thoughtful ideas and questions
- listen respectfully and build on others’ comments

NEED HELP?

Contact Mrs. Dick at ldick@scamail.org with questions about the assignment. Please note that due to summer travel, she may have limited access to school email during this time.