



2026 – 2027 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

10th Grade

Mrs. Dick

HON ENG II

READING REQUIREMENT

- *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
- *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

ASSIGNMENT

In *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton, the Reverend Stephen Kumalo faces many extreme hardships. His faith is put to the ultimate test, but in the end he passes with flying colors. Throughout his journey to Johannesburg, he confronts loss, injustice, and the painful realities of a divided society, yet he continues to act with compassion and humility.

The Screwtape Letters is a brilliant and satirical look at spiritual warfare and the dynamics of temptation. Screwtape, a senior demon in the bureaucracy of Hell, writes letters to his incompetent nephew Wormwood, a junior devil. The younger demon's assignment is to corrupt a young man living in London during the tumultuous days of World War II. Each of the book's thirty-one letters demonstrate the Christian struggle with morality, temptation, and good and evil providing them with the solution found in the grace, love, and power of God.

Your assignment is to thoughtfully read both books with this in mind: **if Screwtape wrote to Wormwood to lead a spiritual attack on Kumalo, what advice would he give him?**

- (1) As you read *Cry, the Beloved Country*, use Post It notes (at least 4) to mark the places in the story where Kumalo would be the most vulnerable to temptation.
 - On each note, include the page number and a brief explanation of the specific temptation that Kumalo faces
- (2) As you read *Screwtape Letters*, mark at least 4 methods with a Post It note that you think would be the most effective at attacking Kumalo in his weakness.
 - On each note, include the page number and a brief explanation of the temptation that would be most effective to attack Kumalo

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.

In the first few days of school, you will participate in a graded discussion and write a creative response in class. You will also take a short quiz over the basic story and characters, so feel free to annotate basic plot and character elements to help you review.

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

Remember that you will also take a short quiz over basic characters and plot.

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.