

## Tears of a Tiger Summer Reading Assignment Questions

Directions: Read the questions. Read the novel and think how you can answer each question as you are reading. Take notes as you read. Write your impressions of the characters, and write your thoughts as you are reading. Read each question very carefully and fully respond to everything included in each question. Be certain you read the rubric and follow it as you answer each of the five (5) questions. Your work must be typed, 12 point font, 1.5 spaces, The font type is your option as long as it is readable.

### Tears of a Tiger Summary:

This is a story about choices and responses to those choices. It's about guilt and blame, friendship, loss, despair, death, hope, fear, isolation, family relationships. The decision of a few young basketball players to drink and drive results in an accident and the death of one of the boys. The surviving young men respond in different ways to the death of their friend, and one subsequently dies at his own hand.

The story is told in different perspectives through diary entries, conversations, poetry, essays, and letters. This novel promotes discussion in which the seriousness of the choices we make have consequences. It also promotes discussion of perspectives, how people oftentimes judge others through their own perspectives, and the damaging results that can possibly occur.

### Questions:

1. When reading this novel, the reader is invited into the lives of the characters and becomes familiar with them, picturing them in personal ways. Reflecting on all of the characters in *Tears of a Tiger*, which character did you relate to the most? Give examples from the novel and your life. Explain why. Cite the evidence.
2. The people in Andy's life have various perspectives concerning how Andy should be progressing through his grief. With this in mind, explain how each of these characters (Keisha, Andy's dad, the psychologist, the coach) view this. Explain how each are realistic or unrealistic expectations of Andy. Give examples from the novel for each. Cite the

- evidence. What was your perspective regarding Andy's progression through his grief? Which character's perspective aligns more with yours? Explain. Cite evidence.
3. In life, there are people who mask their feelings using humor. How does Andy use humor throughout the novel? Explain. Use examples. Cite evidence. Additionally, which other character uses humor to mask feelings. Explain how the character does this. Cite evidence. In what ways are the two characters similar? In what ways are they different? Explain. Use examples. Cite evidence. What experience have you had of someone masking feelings using humor? Explain. Give examples.
  4. Hope is one of the themes of this novel. Choose one character who gives Andy hope. Choose another character who does not give Andy hope. For both characters, explain, give examples, and cite evidence. If you were an additional character in this novel, which would you be: a character who provided hope, or a character who did not provide hope? Why? Give examples. This is not a trick question. You will be scored on how well you justify your choices of characters as well as everything outlined in the rubric.
  5. Describe the relationship between Andy and Monty. Give examples of the unconditional love they share. Explain how the unconditional love each character has for the other impacts their lives. Explain your reasoning. Give examples. Cite evidence.

### **Rubric Guidelines**

Correct use of grammar - 5% of this assignment

Correct use of spelling (including proper capitalization) - 5% of this assignment

Correct format (see directions) - 10% of this assignment

Use of the text to support your answers - 30% of this assignment

Content writing is clear and the questions are answered thoroughly - 40% of this assignment

## Summer Reading Assignment Questions

### I am Malala

Directions: Read the questions. Read the novel and think how you can answer each question as you are reading. Take notes as you read. Write your impressions of the characters, and write your thoughts as you are reading. Read each question very carefully and fully respond to everything included in each question. Be certain you read the rubric and follow it as you answer each of the five (5) questions. Your work must be typed, 12 point font, 1.5 spaces, The font type is your option as long as it is readable.

#### I am Malala summary:

In this autobiography, a young woman cleverly recounts her experience fighting for girls' education in Pakistan, and surviving an attempt to take her life because of her advocacy.

It is told between two countries: Pakistan and England, giving us insight into co-existing cultures that are worlds apart. As Malala writes within, there was a time when she realized, while piecing together what was going on in world news, that she was the news.

#### I am Malala assignments:

Please choose five [5] of the following questions to answer. You do not have to answer all 10.

1. I am Malala can be read as a story of transformation in the author's life. How does Malala change following her experiences? How would you describe the "voice" that emerges for her as a result of these experiences? *Cite examples from the text.*

2. What does reading I am Malala make you realize about your own educational, cultural and life experiences? *Cite examples from the text.*

3. I am Malala is a first-person narrative (autobiography). How would your learning experience have been different if you were reading about Malala

in a biography (where an author is talking *about* Malala's life?) Is there a point in the book where she writes about herself as if she is another person? When? *Refer to the text in your answer.*

4. Malala's parents respond in a relatively open way to her desire to write a journal, first under a pen-name. If you were Malala's mother, or father, would you have allowed her to do this? Why? Why not? See ch. 11, "my voice was the voice of so many others who wanted to speak but couldn't." to "Maybe that girl in the mirror, that girl who imagined speaking to the world, was the Malala I would become." Also cite quotes later in the book for evidence.

5. When Malala is in the hospital, after being the target of an attack, she oscillates between seeing a "green teddy bear" and a "white teddy bear." Can you explain this situation? How do her perceptions seem altered when she regains consciousness? What other evidence do you have of this? See ch. 24, "I woke up on 16 October to a lot of people standing around looking at me." To Chapter 26, "Who was this poor, distorted Malala? And what had happened to her?"

6. When Malala is taken to Birmingham for hospitalization and surgery, her father opts not to go with her. What are the factors of his decision for him? He tells Malala later that he felt "she was in God's hands now." Were you surprised by his decision? Explain in detail. See ch. 29, "My daughter, you are my brave daughter, my beautiful daughter," to "Now she is in God's hands. I must stay with the rest of my family."

7. There is a humoristic moment in *I am Malala* where Angelina Jolie's name comes into the story. Describe this moment and explain how humor changes the tone of Malala's situation. In what way does Malala's humor help her to heal? See ch. 29, "The minister also asked my father if I could 'give a smile to the nation.'" to ch. 30, "to get home and tell Moniba about Angelina Jolie!"

8. In *I am Malala*, Malala leaves a former home and must develop a new sense of home. What are the most important elements of her former home in Pakistan? What elements allow her to feel some sense of home in England? See Chapter 32, "It was so good to be home," to "its not the same as it was back home."

9. While you were reading *I am Malala*, what aspects of the book spoke to you because of experiences you are undergoing in your own life currently? What experiences contrasted sharply with your own? Did you find identification with the character of Malala? In other words, in what ways is Malala a relatable character to you? (Find examples throughout the book.)
10. Technology plays an important role in *I am Malala*. In what ways does technology improve Malala's life experience? In what ways does it detract from her enjoyment of some things? (Find examples throughout the book.)

### **Rubric Guidelines**

- Correct use of grammar - 5% of this assignment
- Correct use of spelling (including proper capitalization) - 5% of this assignment
- Correct format (see directions) - 10% of this assignment
- Use of the text to support your answers - 30% of this assignment
- Content writing is clear and the questions are answered thoroughly - 40% of this assignment

## **Summer Reading Assignment Questions** ***The Selection* (by Kiera Cass)**

Directions: Read the following questions. Then read the novel and think how you can answer each question as you are reading. Take notes as you read. Write your impressions of the characters and the situations they encounter, and write your thoughts as you are reading. Read each question very carefully and fully respond to everything included in each question. Be certain you read the rubric and follow it as you answer each of the questions. Your work must be typed, 12 point font, 1.5 line spacing, The font type is your option as long as it is readable.

### ***The Selection* Summary**

A Cinderella story set in a dystopian/utopian (depending on how you view it) future world where the handsome Prince Maxon must choose a wife from a group of young, eligible girls from different castes and countries. The Selection is a competition in which the girls vie for the prince's attention while living in the royal palace--where they are pampered and deliciously fed--and being groomed to be the next Queen of Illea. The story follows aptly named America Singer as she navigates the abrupt changes from her lower caste subsistence to the privileges of palace life, while rebel forces threaten to dismantle the kingdom.

The novel challenges our notions of upward mobility and institutional structures like royalty and social class, and, for America and Maxon, what constitutes a meaningful romantic relations.

### ***The Selection* Assignments:**

1. The novel outlines a caste system, distinctions between different categories of people. First, look up and explain what a “caste system” is and explain how it differs from social classes. Then describe each level of the system from lowest to highest, place significant characters in each of these levels, and explain how the characters within these castes feel about their place.
2. The idea of arranged marriage is frowned upon, especially to young people who have been taught that having the freedom to select

one's mate is an individual and very personal choice. But I am a parent, and I think I would do a pretty good job selecting someone from my kids to marry . . . after all, I would want them to be happy and fulfilled, right?? So write down your feelings about arranged marriages and about how you would like to go about selecting your future mate. Explain why you feel the way you do (defend your position!). And then explain how America, Maxon, America's parents, and Maxon's parents feel about the Selection process. Cite specific quotations (and give the page number) for each character that support your answer.

3. Several times in the novel rebel groups attack the palace. Disney films generally do not show the "villagers" dissatisfied with the social system, rather the villains are singular and able to be defeated. If the world in the novel is idyllic, why are rebels attacking? Cite specific passages that reveal the nature of the unrest. Then relate this to our current social unrest. What about our social system causes unrest and rebellion?
4. At one point during her new education, America remarks "I thought about that, how we all knew different things or had to guess at the truth. Why weren't we given history books?" It's only touched on in the novel, but America has been taught what appears to be an incomplete education. Using examples and quotations, explain what has happened in the past that produced the world in the novel, the history of Illea in other words. See Chapter 17. Then think about the concept of "history" and who writes it . . . in what ways are history books just a *version* of the "truth."
5. Several times throughout the Selection process, America and the other girls envy one another. Cite four (4) scenes in which envy motivate a character. How do the feelings of resentment and privilege affect these characters? How do the characters deal with their feelings? Cite specific evidence and quotations to support your answer. I found myself relating to some of the characters, and I have felt pangs of envy before. Do you think the characters actions are justified? Why or why not?
6. Consider the function of the "princess" or Cinderella story (sometimes, but less common, is the "prince" story) in our culture.

What other stories or movies do you know about that feature the “one day my prince (or princess) will come” ideology? Discuss why you think this is such a popular trope/motif and determine what common features these stories possess. For example (and you may use this for one of the features), Cinderella stories often have a scene of transformation where the character first becomes a part of the *other* world. Finally, select three (3) scenes from the novel that illustrate these common features and explain how *The Selection* handles each of the

### **Rubric Guidelines**

Correct use of grammar - 5% of this assignment

Correct use of spelling (including proper capitalization) - 5% of this assignment

Correct format (see directions) - 10% of this assignment

Use of the text to support your answers - 30% of this assignment

Content writing is clear and the questions are answered thoroughly - 40% of this assignment