

May 2018

Dear Pre-AP student and guardian,

Palestine ISD is pleased that you have selected a Pre-AP English Language Arts course for the 2017-2018 academic year. As you know, Pre-AP classes are quite rigorous. For this reason, PJHS has elected to require summer reading for incoming 8th grade Pre-AP students. This summer, students will be required to read the novel *The Year of the Hangman* by Gary Blackwood and complete a two part assignment for the novel. The students will check a copy of the book out from the school library that they will be responsible for over the summer.

Instructions and examples of the assignments will be given to each student prior to summer release. Expectations in these classes are high and students will be held accountable. Upon their return, students will be required to turn in assignments and participate in class activities based on summer reading.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our campus principal or the 8th grade ELA department head.

We look forward to having you on our campus this coming year!

Kind regards,

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Year of the Hangman Project

Directions: Choose one of the activities below. Projects are due
August 2018

- 1. Write an epilogue to the novel.** What do the rebels do next? Are they successful in their fight for freedom? Include dialogue as well as descriptions of the characters' actions. 750 words minimum.
- 2. Draw five illustrations for the novel.** Each drawing must be colored or shaded. In addition, each drawing must have a unique title and a minimum of 100 words typed describing the scene. You may decide to tell the whole story or you may select a character and develop that person throughout your writing. Create a cover page for your drawings that includes your name, the date, class period, the title of the book, and the author.
- 3. Use your learning from social studies to write a five paragraph essay** critiquing the historical accuracy and believability of the book. How did the author combine fact and fiction to create a convincing (or not) scenario?
- 4. Compose a narrative, rhyming poem** that describes Creighton's adventures in America and his changes in perception. 450 words minimum (six words/line = 75 lines)
- 5. Imagine you are in charge of creating a soundtrack for a movie version of the novel.** Select five songs and write an explanation for each song (100 words minimum) telling when that song would play in the story and why it is appropriate. Your final project must include recordings of the songs and copies of the lyrics, if applicable.

All projects will be scored using the criteria below:

1. Project meets minimum requirements – 30 points
2. Project is carefully edited for spelling and punctuation – 10 points
3. Project is presented in "publishable" format – 5 points
4. Project shows evidence of higher level thinking or exceeds expectations – 5 points

Name _____

Class Period _____

***The Year of the Hangman* By Gary Blackwood Vocabulary and Study Questions**

Chapter 1

Highwayman – person who robs travelers on the road. Noun.

Sentence (pg 4): _____

Commiserate – to feel or express sympathy. Verb.

Sentence (pg 8): _____

Chit – a short letter or note; a signed voucher for a small debt. Noun.

Sentence (pg 8): _____

Petulantly – insolent or rude in speech or behavior. Adverb

Sentence (pg 11): _____

Gauche – lacking social experience or grace. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 11): _____

Study Questions:

1. Why was the year 1777 called the Year of the Hangman?
2. Why does Creighton's mother think he will "come to a bad end"?
3. What happened to Major Brown, Creighton's father?
4. According to Creighton, what does it mean to be a "gentleman"?
5. Why was Creighton kicked out of his second school?
6. Who do you think kidnapped Creighton at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 2

Rapiers – a straight two-edged sword with a narrow pointed blade. Noun.

Sentence (pg 15): _____

Indignation - anger aroused by something unjust, unworthy, or mean. Noun.

Sentence (pg 22): _____

Crapulence – sickness caused by excess in drinking or eating. Noun.

Sentence (pg 18): _____

Study Questions:

1. What does Creighton infer when the ground changes from cobbles to bricks?
2. Where does Lieutenant Hale tell Creighton they are going?
3. Who is responsible for Ceighton's abduction?

4. What reasons does Creighton's mom give for sending him away? Include three details from the story in your answer.

Chapter 3

Privateers – sailors on an armed private ship licensed to attack enemy shipping. Noun.

Sentence (pg 27): _____

Supercilious – coolly or patronizingly haughty. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 31): _____

Broadsheet – a newspaper with full-size pages as distinguished from a tabloid. A large sheet of paper printed on one or two sides. Noun.

Sentence (pg 36): _____

Study Questions:

1. Why does Creighton tear up the letter?
2. What does Lieutenant Hale say is the one thing he learned from his life in the military?
3. What country owns the ship the Revenge? What happened to its captain?
4. Why didn't Creighton shout out for help when the ship stopped in the Azores? Include two details in your answer.
5. How is Charles Town different than Creighton expected? Include five details in your answer.
6. Describe Creighton's first impressions of his uncle. Include two details in your answer.
7. What lie does Creighton tell Colonel Gower about why he came to the Colonies? Why doesn't Creighton tell the truth?
8. What two things does Creighton learn from Colonel Gower about the whipping?
9. Why do you think Lieutenant Hale doesn't reveal Creighton's lie to Colonel Gower?
10. Why do you think Colonel Gower doesn't let Creighton see his father's grave?
11. Where are Creighton and Colonel Gower going at the end of chapter 3?

Chapter 4

Shroud – set of rope lines stretched to a ship’s masthead. Noun.

Sentence (pg 43): _____

Chastised – to inflict punishment or to censure severely. Verb.

Sentence (pg 44): _____

Study Questions:

1. How did Creighton feel about going to Florida with his uncle?
2. What is Creighton’s original plan for returning to England and how does it change?
3. How do the Patriots draw the Amity close enough to attack them?
4. What simile does Colonel Gower use to describe the Patriot’s sense of honor?
5. Why does Colonel Gower tell Creighton that he should not let the enemy know that he is his nephew?

Chapter 5

Brigands – one who lives by plunder. Noun.

Sentence (pg 53): _____

Incredulous – unwilling to admit or accept what is offered as true. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 59): _____

Indentured – binding one person to work for another for a given period of time. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 59): _____

Study Questions:

1. How are Colonel Gower’s and Benedict Arnold’s point of view about the status of the conflict different?
2. What option did Benedict Arnold give the crew of the Amity and what did they decide?
3. How does Creighton not fit Peter’s expectations of an indentured servant?
4. What does Colonel Gower want Creighton to do?
5. What does Creighton infer about his father after talking with Colonel Gower?
6. When Peter enters the cabin, what does he assume is happening?

Chapter 6

Invective – characterized by insult or abuse. Noun.

Sentence (pg 66): _____

Deigned – to condescend; to give or offer. Verb.

Sentence (pg 71): _____

Interminable – seeming to last forever; endless. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 71): _____

Study Questions:

1. When arriving at New Orleans, why did the ships sail into Lake Ponchartrain?
2. Summarize Creighton's reaction to mosquitos. What do his actions reveal about his character?
3. What three things did New Orleans have in common with Charles Town?
4. Why did the British want to capture New Orleans?
5. Why were the houses built on pilings six to eight feet above ground?
6. Where did the Patriots keep Colonel Gower and Lieutenant Hale?
7. What does Benedict Arnold reveal about General Washington?
8. How did Peter's opinion of Benjamin Franklin different than Creighton's expectations?
9. Describe your first impressions of Sophie.
10. What does Sophie reveal about her attitude toward the English at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 7

Haranguing – a ranting speech or writing; blustering, noisy, scolding. Verb.

Sentence (pg 82): _____

Brusquely – markedly short and abrupt; blunt in manner. Adverb.

Sentence (pg 82): _____

Study Questions:

1. What do we know about Sophie's background?

2. What was the one thing Creighton needed from his mother but never got?
3. What does Creighton find in his boot?
4. What does Creighton mean when he says he "felt as though he were the one who had lost his shirt" after played cards with Ben Franklin?

Chapter 8

Demure- affectedly modest, reserved, or serious. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 89): _____

Ephemeral - lasting a day; a very short time. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 89): _____

Study Questions:

1. What are "strong beverages" (pg 90)?
2. What surprises Creighton about his new job as Franklin's printing assistant?
3. What about his new job bring him the most satisfaction?
4. What is a "maroon"? What is a "Creole"?
5. What simile does the author use at the end of the chapter to describe Creighton's clumsiness with the printing press?

Chapter 9

Derisively- expressing ridicule or scorn to show contempt

Sentence (pg 103): _____

Chafed- to feel irritation or discontent

Sentence (pg 106): _____

Study Questions:

1. How does the line "The beauty of no one expecting anything of you was that you couldn't possibly fail to live up to it" apply to Creighton?
2. Why does Creighton decide not to become a stowaway?
3. What incident occurs when Creighton encounters a group of boys with cane poles?
4. What new plan does Colonel Gower share with Creighton at the Cabildo?

5. Why is Creighton reluctant to return to Franklin's residence? What convinces him to go?

Chapter 10

Peevish – fretful, marked by ill temper. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 110): _____

Precipitously – very steep ascent. Adverb.

Sentence (pg 115): _____

Study Questions:

1. What does Sophie tell Creighton is better than an apology?
2. What does Sophie say happened to Thomas Jefferson and his family?
3. What does Creighton consider for the first time while trying to go to sleep?
4. What does Franklin mean when he says "What it says on a map does not always agree with what's in the hearts of the people who lives there?"
5. What does Creighton discover Ben Franklin printing in the middle of the night?

Chapter 11

Propaganda – spreading of false information to help or to cause harm or injury

Sentence (pg 123): _____

Decipher – decode; to make out meaning

Sentence (pg 128): _____

Study Questions:

1. What is significant about the Liberty Tree?
2. What action did the Liberty Tree urge the Patriots to do?
3. What information was Creighton able to decipher from the code?
4. What internal conflict do you think is bothering Creighton's conscience?
5. What did Creighton dream about?
6. What news did Peter bring while knocking on Franklin's door?

Chapter 12

Tarnal – eternal

Sentence (pg 132): _____

Warmongers – one who urges or attempts to stir up a war

Sentence (pg 134): _____

Study Questions:

1. What were General Arnold and a Frenchman going to be dueling over?
2. What was the problem with dueling?
3. What did Franklin do and say to solve the dueling problem?
4. When Peter and Creighton left the dueling site, what happened between the two?
5. How does Creighton get the pistol from Peter?
6. What three mistakes does Creighton make while helping with the printing press? Why is he so distracted?

Chapter 13

Plausible – appearing worthy of belief. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 150): _____

Study Questions:

1. Why did Creighton go to bed fully clothed and awake?
2. What happened when Creighton tried to push the pistol through the hold in the Cabildo wall?
3. What does Creighton do to help Colonel Gower and Lieutenant Hale escape?
4. Why doesn't Creighton get to escape with Colonel Gower and Lieutenant Hale?
5. What does Colonel Gower do so that Creighton remains behind?
6. Where does Creighton end up?

7. Why are the Patriots upset that the prisoners (Colonel Gower and Lieutenant Hale) escaped?

8. What does Creighton tell Dr. Franklin about the prisoner escape?

9. What does Franklin mean when he tells Creighton "I've given you a lot of rope, you know. See that you don't hang yourself with it"?

Chapter 14

Rakish – given to immoral or improper conduct. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 152): _____

Assailed – to attack violently with blows or words. Verb.

Sentence (pg 158): _____

Study Questions:

1. What does Peter reveal about his family?
2. How are the English image of the typical Yankey and the French image of the Kaintock similar?
3. How does Creighton say the Patriots at the Café des Exile compare to his companions in England?
4. What is the "Indian situation?"
5. Why didn't Colonel Gower tell Creighton and his mother the truth about Harry Brown?
6. Do you agree with Peter that Creighton's father was a hero, or with Colonel Gower that he was a traitor? Support your answer with details from the text.
7. What "old certainty" does Creighton long for after hearing the truth about his father?

Chapter 15

Brandishing – to shake or wave menacingly. Verb.

Sentence (pg 163): _____

Acrid – sharp and harsh unpleasant taste or odor. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 168): _____

Study Questions:

1. What did Benedict Arnold get upset with himself and Benjamin Franklin over?
2. Who is Aaron Burr?

3. What does Benedict Arnold think should have been printed?
4. What do Arnold and Franklin each think "you're doing what is best" means?
5. What was the reason Franklin gives for the Patriots losing the war?
6. According to Franklin, what was wrong with Benedict Arnold?
7. Who did Franklin feel could unite the Patriots?
8. What are the rumors regarding the fate of George Washington, and what does Benedict Arnold say is the truth?
9. On what two issues did Creighton notice that his feelings were changing?
10. What happens with Creighton awakens and an acrid smell overcomes him?
11. What happens to Benjamin Franklin in the fire?

Chapter 16

Inexplicable – incapable of being explained. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 172): _____

Subversive – a cause of overthrow or destruction. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 175): _____

Imperceptibly – extremely slight, gradual, or subtle. Adverb.

Sentence (pg 178): _____

Pretense – a claim made or implied not supported by fact. Noun.

Sentence (pg 178): _____

Study Questions:

1. According to Benedict Arnold, what requires real courage?
2. How does Creighton realize his feelings about Britain have changed?
3. What can you infer Sophie means when she says at the end of the chapter that she "hopes to have plenty of assistance"?

Chapter 17

divulge - to make known. Verb.

Sentence (pg 186): _____

Study Questions:

1. How were Ben Franklin's and Benedict Arnold's views on the war different? Whom does Creighton agree with?
2. Summarize Benedict Arnold's new plan. What role with Creighton play?

Chapter 18

deftness- characterized by facility and skill. Noun.

Sentence (pg 189): _____

Quay - a structure built parallel to the bank of a waterway for use as a landing place. Noun.

Sentence (pg 191): _____

Defection - a conscious abandonment of allegiance or duty. Noun.

Sentence (pg 196): _____

Study Questions:

1. What were Benedict Arnold, Peter, and Creighton planning to do?
2. What one thing did Creighton feel would work in his favor regarding his uncle's opinion of him?
3. Explain how Benedict Arnold, Peter, and Creighton entered Pensacola Harbor.
4. What task does Benedict Arnold give to Peter to perform? What is Peter to do if Arnold and Creighton do not return?
5. Why was Creighton thinking of his mother and her comment "that he would leave this world at the end of a rope"? (pg 193)
6. What does Colonel Gower think might happen to Benedict Arnold? (pg 196)
7. What news does Arnold find out about Creighton from Colonel Gower?
8. Creighton was thinking that once back on English soil his newfound loyalty to the American cause might fade. Why didn't it?

9. What reason does Creighton give Lieutenant Hale that he didn't tell Arnold he was Colonel Gower's nephew?

Chapter 19

Befuddlement- confused; perplexed. Noun.

Sentence (pg 200): _____

Sardonic - derisively making; sarcastic. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 202): _____

Study Questions:

1. How does the Colonel attempt to trick Creighton into admitting he is lying?
2. Why does Creighton go the Boar's Head even though that was where Peter had been nearly captured?
3. What information does Creighton hope to get from Gower by giving him the falsely translated message?

Chapter 20

Reconciled - to restore friendship or harmony. Verb.

Sentence (pg 215): _____

Feigning - to give a false appearance or impression. Verb.

Sentence (pg 212): _____

Study Questions:

1. Why are Arnold and Gower fighting a duel?
2. How does Creighton expect this duel will be different than the duels in England?
3. Summarize the duel. Include five main events.
4. What do you think Gower's last words meant?

Chapter 21

Atoning- to supply satisfaction for; to reconcile. Verb.

Sentence (pg 224): _____

Forlornly- sad or lonely because of isolation; forsaken

Sentence (pg 225): _____

Study Questions:

1. What does Arnold tell Creighton to bring back from the State House?

2. Evaluate Arnold's decision to leave with Peter. Support your opinion with at least one detail from the story.
3. Creighton says he now understands what Gower meant when he said his father had let his judgment be impaired by compassion. What does this statement mean to you?
4. Who joins Arnold and Creighton on the boat?
5. How do Arnold and Creighton gain entrance to St. Marks?
6. Whom do Arnold and Creighton find in cell No. 4?

Chapter 22

Imperious – domineering; commanding; dominant or overbearing. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 235): _____

Clamor - loudly insistent noise. Noun.

Sentence (pg 240): _____

Plummeted- to fall perpendicularly; to drop sharply and abruptly. Verb.

Sentence (pg 244): _____

Study Questions:

1. What is the meaning of the word "surfeit" in the first sentence of the chapter?
2. Why is the British guard suspicious of Arnold and Creighton?
3. Why does Creighton's father tell him not to judge Gower too harshly?
4. In what way does Harry Brown say that Creighton has changed?
5. Summarize the escape from St. Marks. Include six main events.

Chapter 23

Macabre– dwelling on the gruesome. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 235): _____

Inscrutable– not readily investigated, interpreted, or understood. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 253): _____

Enamored– to inspire or flame with love. Adjective.

Sentence (pg 256): _____

Study Questions:

1. What does Peter learn about the person he was carrying?
2. Arnold uses a knife to do what to Creighton?
3. When Benedict Arnold departs the group, what are his plans?
4. What was Harry Brown's explanation to his son about why he warned the Americans?
5. What happens to the Spanish and American fleet when they encounter the British fleet?
6. What has happened to Benedict Arnold?
7. When Creighton read Franklin's papers in candlelight, what did they say?
8. What does Creighton mean by saying that he is not "playing a game anymore"?