

Summer Reading Book Study Assignment

The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells

Incoming 8th Grade – Catholic School

As you read *The War of the Worlds*, pay attention to themes of human nature, courage, fear, survival, faith, humility, and the limits of human power. Consider how the events of the novel encourage readers to reflect on the dignity of human life and our dependence on God. Complete the following assignments and be prepared to discuss the novel when school begins.

1. Highlight important events, character development, and major themes in each chapter as you read.
2. Keep a vocabulary log of at least 25 unfamiliar words from the novel and record their definitions.
3. Create a character chart that identifies major and minor characters and explains their roles in the story.
4. Create a setting chart that identifies important locations and explains their significance to the plot.
5. What is the main conflict of the novel? Explain it in at least 7 complete sentences.
6. What is the climax of the novel? Explain why it is the turning point of the story in at least 7 complete sentences.
7. List and explain 10 important events from the rising action that lead to the climax.
8. List and explain 10 important events from the falling action that occur after the climax.
9. Explain the resolution of the novel in at least 10 complete sentences.
10. Identify and explain three major themes of the novel. Use examples from the text to support your answers.
11. What is the author's purpose for writing this novel? Support your answer with evidence from the story.
12. What genre or genres best describe this novel? Explain your answer using details from the text.
13. Write a summary of the novel in 25 complete sentences.
14. Catholic Reflection: Throughout the novel, people realize that human strength and technology have limits. Write one well-developed paragraph explaining how this idea connects to humility, faith, and dependence on God in Catholic teaching.
15. Write a critique of the novel in 12 complete sentences. Discuss its strengths, weaknesses, themes, and whether you would recommend it to another student.