

**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
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Questions about summer reading project:

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10th GRADE SUMMER READING PROJECT 2018

*Note: The Summer Reading Project must be submitted online on **Turnitin.com**.*

Please set up an account and log in to:

Class ID: 18125320

Enrollment Key: Geschel2

All students are required to read two books and complete the corresponding assignments. This year, the 10th grade title *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. They will read the novel and complete two activities pertaining to it. For the independent reading, students will choose from a list of titles below. During reading, they will keep a reading log in which they will respond to each section of the novel. After finishing the selected book, students will choose a project from the options listed below.

In summation, the (4-part) assignment is as follows:

Orphan Train

1) Diary Entry

2) Response to article

Novel of your choice

3) Independent Reading Logs

4) Creative project of your Choosing

BOOK ONE: ORPHAN TRAIN

The *One Book, One Philadelphia* Selection Committee chose *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline as its 2015 selection. *Orphan Train* is the compelling story of Vivian, a 91-year-old widow once orphaned as a child, and Molly, a troubled teen who has been shuffled from one unstable foster home to another. The two women develop a bond, with Vivian treasuring her Irish immigrant roots and Molly finding comfort in her ancestral Native American tradition. The novel sheds light on an era when thousands of orphaned children were taken from crowded cities to face uncertain futures in the rural Midwest and connects with the importance of heritage and memories in shaping who we are, the value of intergenerational relationships, and the fundamental power of family. The *Library Journal* calls it, "A compelling story about loss, adaptability, and courage... With compassion and delicacy Kline presents a little-known chapter of American history."

The Project includes 2 parts:

- 1) Diary Entry: You are a rider on the Orphan Train. Write a short diary entry to a friend back in New York City telling how you feel while riding the train. Are you frightened or excited? What do you hope will happen when you reach the station? What kind of home would you prefer? (minimum two paragraphs)
- 2) Response to Article: Read the article attached entitled, "Keep 'Em Moving" and then write a 2-3 paragraph response. Do you agree/disagree? What did you learn and/or find important that was said? Do you have any questions about it?

Keep 'Em Moving:

New York's poor children were once saved by being exported.

By **RUTH WALLIS HERNDON**

In October 1854, 45 homeless children traveled together by boat and rail from New York to Dowagiac, Mich., where they were auctioned off to local farmers and craftsmen, who gave the youngsters homes and put them to work in fields and shops. This was the first "orphan train," the beginning of a system that ultimately relocated some 250,000 poor, orphaned, abandoned and runaway children from East Coast slums to rural areas of the developing nation between the 1850's and the 1920's. Charles Loring Brace, a Connecticut-born minister and reformer, thought this up as a solution to the wretched abuse and poverty he encountered among street children while he worked as a missionary with New York's Five Point Mission. In 1853, he established the Children's Aid Society and shortly thereafter orphan trains became the society's most successful program to rescue neglected and abused children; over a period of 75 years, the organization alone relocated more than 100,000 youngsters. Stephen O'Connor's "Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed" provides a biography of Brace, chronicles the first 50 years of his Children's Aid Society and tells the story of a number of relocated children.

With the idea of orphan trains, Brace capitalized on the expanding network of railroads, on the westward shift of the nation's population and on the growing need for labor in the rural areas of the Midwest. His system drew on traditional forms of indentured servitude and on the new German residential school system for homeless children, the Rauhe Haus. Brace's goal was to provide a happy "family circle" for the many throwaway children who lived in squalor on New York's streets; his hope was that through the foster parent system, relocated youngsters would receive proper physical care as well as schooling and practical training for adulthood. He was not entirely successful. As the subtitle of the book indicates, while many children were saved by being folded into good homes, others ended up in situations as desperate as the ones they left. Children's Aid Society workers sometimes minimized and even ignored the traumas of those youngsters who were humiliated, exploited and abused (sexually and

psychologically) by their foster families. Mounting criticism of the society led to the decline and eventual abandonment of orphan trains; charitable organizations gradually adopted the mode of assisting children within their birth families, so that children could remain with their parents while obtaining relief. In 1929, the Children's Aid Society's last orphan train left New York.

At the heart of the book are the tales of the orphan train children. O'Connor has pieced together the experience of the children by drawing on the institutional reports and fund-raising publications -- collaborative fictionalizations" that the Children's Aid Society produced to bolster its cause. Johnny Morrow, a charming, intelligent and resourceful boy, described a traumatic childhood of running away from an abusive father and eking out a precarious living peddling newspapers in New York until he was taken in by the society; he struggled to reconstitute his family by tracking down his siblings who had been removed through the orphan trains. John Brady, one of the society's most notable successes, began as a New York street tough and wound up as governor of Alaska. Charley Miller, an unwanted child who was shifted from birth home to orphanage to orphan train to a Minnesota farm without ever finding a real home or family, murdered two drifters and was hanged for the crime before he turned 18. O'Connor, the author of "Will My Name Be Shouted Out?," an account of his experiences as a schoolteacher in New York, and "Rescue," a collection of short fiction, tells these stories lucidly and gracefully. He is particularly evocative in his descriptions of the transportation conditions the children endured, the conditions of urban poverty in New York in the 1800's and of a typical day of a New York newsboy. His opening description of the first orphan train arriving in a small Michigan town and the orphans' fate at the hands of the potential buyers is splendid.

Unfortunately, O'Connor focuses not on the children's lives but on Brace -- his privileged beginnings, his activities as an energetic reformer, the public criticism of his ideas and his organization at the end of his life. The children Brace pitied remain in the background. After opening with that riveting description of the Dowagiac orphan train, O'Connor gives 60 pages describing Brace's early history before he provides another look at the orphans, whose fascinating cross-country travels consistently take second place to Brace's intellectual journey. It is in the children's stories that O'Connor relates with greatest force the strengths and weaknesses of the orphan train system -- the relief on being rescued from the wretchedness of urban poverty, the uncertainty and loneliness of relocation, the difficulties in fitting into a new household, the disappointment or hope when the character of the second home was revealed.

O'Connor also includes too many long quotations from Brace's writings, which dominate and weigh down the book. Brace's dense, wordy style contrasts with O'Connor's lean, graceful one; this is a case where the biographer could have told the story more powerfully than the subject did.

O'Connor has obviously done significant research in order to understand, and to enable his readers to understand, the historical context in which orphan train children lived. His sources are not always apparent, however. He makes some startling claims -- for example, that there were no slums in 18th-century American cities or that children were routinely kidnapped in England and sent to the colonies in coerced bondage -- that require documentation.

O'Connor is to be applauded for recognizing the value of the stories of the orphan

train children, for picking them out and piecing them together from the Children's Aid Society literature and for placing them within the context of 19th-century urban poverty. His final chapter reflects on present-day child welfare policies and strategies, and he lobbies passionately for a system of diligent workers to oversee the placement and care of abused and neglected children in responsible foster families. Thus, "Orphan Trains" serves as a cautionary tale, for, as O'Connor shows, Brace's good intentions and earnest concern could not prevent many relocated children from falling into conditions that were as miserable as the ones they left behind. Now, as then, it takes more than a good idea to save the children.

Ruth Wallis Herndon teaches history at the University of Toledo. She is the author of "Unwelcome Americans: Living on the Margin in Early New England."

BOOK TWO: Independent Reading Book (of your choice)

Romance

***Last Year's Mistake.* Gina Ciocca** The arrival at her school of transfer student David, with whom she shares a romantic past, sends Kelsey into a tailspin. As she tries to decide what's more important, holding onto what she has or trying to regain what she lost, secrets are revealed, old feelings are restoked, and swoons are swooned.

***Forever for a Year.* B.T. Gottfred** This tender head rush of a new love story is told in the alternating perspectives of the lovestruck, Carolina and Trevor. Each wants a relationship that's nothing like their parents', and Gottfred follows them through every brutal and transcendent twist in their tale.

Drama

***Native Son.* Wright, Richard.** A young African American man is trapped in the poverty-stricken ghetto of Chicago's South Side, finding release only in acts of violence.

***Joyride.* Anna Banks** After witnessing him committing an odd crime, first-generation Mexican American Carly starts to fall for Anglo American golden boy Arden, the son of a racist local sheriff. His painful past and her ambition to smuggle her parents back into the U.S. complicate their headlong love affair and Banks' breathtaking plot.

***Survive the Night.* Danielle Vega** Vega's gory horror story is set deep below the streets of New York City. Fresh out of rehab, Casey follows the sociopathic bad girl who first led her astray to a hellish underground rave called Survive the Night. There, far greater horrors than ex-boyfriends and police raids await them, as the freshly killed body in the subway tunnel can attest...

***Pretending to be Erica.* Michelle Painchaud** Violet's conman foster father is deadly committed to turning her into Erica Silverman, a kidnapped and murdered heiress who was taken 12 years ago, at age 5. Violet shares Erica's face (thanks to plastic surgery) and her DNA (her dad's got connections), and she's been given a job: resurface as Erica, and play along until she can snatch an invaluable painting from the Silverman family collection. Soon Violet finds herself torn between allegiance to the man who raised her to be a perfect monster, and the loving family who believes she's theirs.

Coming-of-age stories/ Personal Struggles

***More Happy Than Not,* by Adam Silvera** : Prepare to have your heart ripped out and handed to you by Silvera's debut, set in summertime in the Bronx, in a near future where struggling gay teen Aaron dreams about getting a memory-altering procedure that will help him forget the boy he might be falling for.

***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time.* Haddon, Mark.** Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother.

Science Fiction

***Ishmael.* Quinn, Daniel.** It begins with a newspaper ad: "Teacher seeks pupil. Must have an earnest desire to save the world. Apply in person." The nameless narrator and protagonist begins his story, telling how he first reacted to this ad with scorn because of the absurdity of "wanting to save the world." However, he responds to the ad anyway and, upon arriving at the address, finds himself in a room with a gorilla.

Sounds absurd, yes, but is incredibly intriguing and thought-provoking.

***This Broken Wondrous World.* Jon Skovron.** In a world in which monsters exist, the once human-avoiding son of Frankenstein's Monster and his Bride is now living with Dr. Frankenstein's descendants. Then a flareup of monstrous activity prefaces a strange invitation to join forces with the disturbed and disturbing Dr. Moreau, whose nefarious plans for world domination force Boy to become a man.

***Proof of Forever.* Lexa Hillyer.** Hillyer's a poet and cofounder of the Paper Lantern lit fiction incubator, and this is her YA debut. Four friends who've drifted apart are zapped by some strange magic back in time to their last year at summer camp, and must fix (or relive) old mistakes without derailing the future.

Fantasy

***A History of Glitter and Blood.* Hannah Moskowitz.** Moskowitz's fairy fantasy is an exciting 180 from her wonderful March title *Not Otherwise Specified*, exploring class warfare between fairies and gnomes in the densely imagined realm of Ferrum. It's told in the form of a history book written by a lovelorn boy, and what I'm gonna need right now is for it to materialize in my hands, please.

***Legacy of Kings.* Eleanor Herman.** This magic-tinged multi-POV historical tracks the becoming of Alexander the Great. We meet the hero at age 16, raring to leave his kingdom behind to seek adventure. The novel's scope expands to include his reluctant Persian fiancée, his best friend, and more, set against the epic, ever-shifting canvas of the ancient world.

***The Witch Hunter.* Virginia Boecker.** This supernatural series starter set in an alt England centers on a witch hunter named Elizabeth, who faces death from a magic-fearing inquisitor when discovered in possession of herbs. When a wizard saves her from execution and asks her to be his ally, she's plunged into a fascinating netherworld of dark enchantments.

***Wicked.* Maguire, Gregory.** This imaginative fantasy novel retells the story of The Wizard of Oz from the point of view of Elphaba, a green-skinned, sharp-toothed witch from the West. The author occasionally uses earthy language to create a feeling of authenticity, and he does not shy away from the awakening of young adults.

Non-fiction

***We Should All Be Feminists.* Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** In December 2015, it was announced that every 16-year-old in Sweden would be given a copy of this book. Adapted from Adichie's award-winning TEDx Talk of the same name (which blew up after Beyoncé sampled it), the book is a great stepping stone for discussions on gender roles and equity. Drawing from Adichie's own experiences, it's a key read for young women and men as they navigate the future together.

***The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia.* Candace Fleming.** If truth is stranger than fiction, the Romanovs still get some kind of prize. Any teen who claims history is boring should get their hands on this book. (Adults should, too!) Fleming writes about Russia's last royal family and its downfall in a gripping way, covering every spot of doom in its gilded halls (while also tending to the lives of the poor Russian masses). Fans of reality show drama will hold today's camera-ready families to a much higher drama standard after reading this book.

***The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century.* Sarah Miller.** There's a reason why true crime is a genre that's always popular: It's addictive and thought-provoking. Miller does her homework, and tries to separate fact from fiction (news stories on Borden's 1892 double murder trial were highly sensationalized). Readers won't feel like they're just gawking at a crime scene; they'll actually learn something about the legal process in this fascinating account of an unsolved crime that's hard to put down.

***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier.* Beah, Ishmael.** This absorbing account by a young man who, as a boy of 12, gets swept up in Sierra Leone's civil war goes beyond even the best journalistic efforts in revealing the life and mind of a child abducted into the horrors of warfare. Beah's harrowing journey transforms him overnight from a child enthralled by American hip-hop music and dance to an internal refugee bereft of family, wandering from village to village in a country grown deeply divided by the indiscriminate atrocities of unruly, sociopathic rebel and army forces.

***Hungry: A Young Model's Story of Appetite, Ambition, and the Ultimate Embrace of Curve.* Renn, Crystal.** s "An eye-opening tale for all women, *Hungry* explores the difference between the fantasy that society projects and the reality of what makes us happy. Crystal Renn's experience debunks the modern-day Cinderella story of the fat girl who loses weight to get happy. This is a new fairy tale, one in which a young woman embraces the size she's supposed to be and the world opens up for her.

***Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal.* Schlosser, Eric.** You will never look at fast

food the same way ever again. Fast food has become a veritable American institution, with restaurants serving a quick bite in every strip mall and roadside rest area across the country. But the fast food establishment has been serving up much more than just cheap hamburgers and greasy fries. Author Eric Schlosser traces the growth of fast food chains and condemns the industry for giving rise to such cultural maladies as obesity, classism, American global imperialism, and environmental devastation.

This Boy's Life: A Memoir. **Wolff, Tobias.** Wolff begins his finely written memoir recounting the journey he and his mother made from Florida to Washington State in search of a better life. Toby grapples with the typical experiences of young adulthood: trying to “fit in,” learning what’s right, and searching for acceptance from peers, parents, and other adults. Wolff creates a classic coming of age story told in gritty and beautiful prose.

Independent Reading Book: Assignment #1: INTERACTIVE **READING LOG:**

After reading **each chapter** of your independent reading book, respond to the text with a few sentences. Below are some prompts you can use to start yourself off. If your book doesn’t have proper chapters, respond every 10-20 pages or so.

Sample Interactive Prompts:

- I really don't understand the part where . . .
- I really like/dislike this idea because . . .
- This character reminds me of somebody I know because . . .
- This character reminds me of myself because . . .
- I think this setting is important because . . .
- This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of book/movie/T.V. show) because . . .
- I like/dislike this writing because . . .
- This part is very realistic/unrealistic because . . .
- I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because . . .
- This section makes me think about . . .
- I like/dislike (name of character) because . . . My favorite character is ____ . . .
- This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. What happened was . . .
- If I were (name of character) at this point, I would . . . I began to think of . . .
- I love the way . . . I can't believe . . . I wonder why . . . I noticed... I'm not sure . . .
- I like the way the author ... I felt sad when . . . I wish that . . . I was surprised . . . It seems like . . . I want to know more about . . . I predict . . .

Independent Reading Book: Assignment #2: CREATIVE PROJECT:

(Choose one) Your project will be graded on visual appeal, content, and creativity.

1. Write 3-5 **newspaper articles** portraying moments in the text in journalistic fashion. These articles should reflect the beginning, middle and end of the work. Use the journalistic questions (Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?) to guide your writing.
2. Turn the story into a **comic book**. Include all of the characters and the major aspects of the plot. Remember that a comic book should show both dialogue and the thoughts of the characters. (At least *five* significant scenes should be featured in your book).
3. Create a **scrapbook** for one of the characters. These items can be represented through drawings, actual objects, magazine clippings, etc. Length: 10-12 major items. Explain briefly what the items signify.
4. Develop a **soundtrack** for the book. For each major part of the book, choose three songs (12 -15 songs total) that represent the characters and events in that part. For each song, explain why your choice matches the section or scene. Quote the lyrics that show the link between the song and the book. Your choices must not contain any profanity or inappropriate content. You may burn a CD of your soundtrack, but this is not a required part of the project.
5. Keep a **diary** as if you are one of the characters in the book either 5 years before or 5 years after the story. The character's diary should highlight significant events especially those events that enlighten, enrich, or dramatically impact a character's life. Each entry should reflect the character's thoughts for that particular day. Your diary should have at least 8-10 entries.

How to Get Cheap Books

#1 SUGGESTION: GO TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY! <http://www.freelibrary.org/>

#2 SUGGESTION: There are a number of websites where new or used copies of books can be purchased at up to a 90% discount. A few sites I recommend are:

- 1)Ebay (www.ebay.com) - *Type in the title of your book and bid on copies available from individual sellers around the country.*
- 2)Half.com (<http://www.half.ebay.com/>) - *Type in the title of your book and directly purchase new or used copies directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings.*
- 3)Amazon.com marketplace (www.amazon.com) - *Select 'books' in the menu and type in the title of your book. You can purchase the book new from amazon.com or click on 'buy used and new' and purchase a copy directly from individual sellers at up to 90% savings.*