



Each grade is required to read 2 novels. Please purchase these novels instead of borrowing from the library – books will be needed in class.

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INCOMING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:

Fish In A Tree - by: Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
Half A Chance - by: Cynthia Lord

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INCOMING 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:

The Pearl - John Steinbeck  
Walk Two Moons - Sharon Creech

\*\* (please see assignment after the list of Jewish novels) \*\*



## INCOMING 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:

Light in the Forest - Conrad Richter

The Call of the Wild – Jack London

\*\* (please see assignment after the list of Jewish novels) \*\*

**In addition, a book of Jewish content chosen from the list on the next page may be read for extra credit/incentive program.**

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>
THE BAMBOO CRADLE	Schwartzbaum	Feldheim
THE FAITHFUL SOLDIERS	Leader	Feldheim
A LIFE OF CHESSED	Fischer	Mesorah
HOUSE CALLS TO ETERNITY	Wehl	Mesorah
EXILES OF CROCODILE ISLAND	Meyer	Mesorah
THE FAMILY Y AGUILAR	Lehmann	Feldheim
ALL FOR THE BOSS	Shain	Feldheim
MICHALINA	Araten, Rachel Sarna	Am Israel Chai
THE RABBI AND THE PRIEST	Arrarat, Y. B.	Targum/Feldheim
FROM OUR SEALED ROOMS	Targum Press Editors	Targum
FOREVER MY JERUSALEM	Shtainer, Pual	Feldheim
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MAGGID	Krohn, Rabbi Paysach	Mesorah
THE TWINS	Firer, Benzion	Feldheim
FAR FROM THIS PLACE WE CALLED HOME	Schleimer, Sara	Feldheim
VOICES IN THE SILENCE	Sonnenfeld	Feldheim
IN THE SHADOW OF THE KREMLIN	Gottlieb	Mesorah
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MAGGID	P. Krohn	"
DATELINE: ISTANBUL	Friedenson	"
REB YAAKOV	Rosenblum	"
REB MOSHE	Finkelman	"
SISTERS IN THE STORM	Eilenberg	C.I.S.
MIGRANT SOUL	Shafran	Feldheim
SCAPEGOAT ON TRIAL	Schwartz	C.I.S.
SILENT REVOLUTION	Zakon	Mesorah
PLAYING WITH FIRE	Mordechai	B.P.
TO VANQUISH THE DRAGON	Benisch	Feldheim
A FIRE IN HIS SOUL	Bunim	"
FIRE IN THE SKY	Schachnowitz	"
THE BOSTONER	Teller	"

RECOLLECTIONS	Epstein	"
GO MY SON	Shapiro	"
A TZADDIK IN OUR TIME	Raz	"
REB CHAIM OZER	Finkelman	Mesorah
SURVIVAL	Worch	"
FLIGHT	Worch	"
THE UNHEEDED CRY	Fuchs	"
DEEP IN THE RUSSIAN NIGHT	Chazan	C.I.S.
THEY CALLED ME FRAU ANNA	Banet	"
BEHIND THE ICE CURTAIN	Gabel	"
HEROINE OF RESCUE	Friedenson	Mesorah
FEAR NO EVIL	Sharansky	Random House
LIEUTENANT BIRNBAUM	Birnbaum, Meyer	Mesorah
ITZIK BE STRONG!	Pomerantz, Yitzchak	C.I.S.
DARE TO SURVIVE	Friedman, Chaim S.	"
SONGS OF HOPE	Werdyger, David	"
SCENT OF SNOWFLOWERS	Klein	Feldheim
GOING FORWARD	Friedman, Peska	C.I.S.
BLUE STAR OVER RED SQUARE	Raiz, Carmela	Feldheim

**Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders:**  
**Answer the following questions for *The Pearl* and**  
***Walk Two Moons* on a google document.**

The document will be turned in on classroom on the first day of school.

***The Pearl* - Answer 20 questions of your choice from this book.**

Chapter 1 (pg. 3-13)

1. Who appears to be the protagonist (main character) in this story?
2. On pages 3-4 Kino has arisen and the day has begun. What is this song he hears and what does it suggest about how he is feeling this morning?
3. On page 6, what new song comes to Kino? Why?
4. When the narrator says, "Kino had wondered often at the iron in his patient, fragile wife" (8) what does he mean?
5. How are the homes of the poor different from the homes of the rich?
6. How is the doctor described?
7. What race do you suppose the doctor is?
8. What does the doctor's comment on page 13 reveal about his attitude toward Indians?
9. Contrast Kino's life, which is a life close to nature, to the doctor's life, which is a life amidst civilization. List three things that are different.

Chapter 2 (pg. 14-20)

1. How is a canoe a protection from starvation?
2. How is a pearl formed?
3. What does Juana pray for? Why?
4. On what two discoveries does Chapter 2 end?
5. Why does Kino howl?

### Chapter 3 (pg. 21-39)

1. In the opening what is the town compared to? Why do you suppose he makes this comparison?
2. How does the news of the pearl affect a) the priest, b) the shopkeepers, c) the doctor, and d) the beggars.
3. In what sense (page 23) did Kino become "every man's enemy"?
4. What does Kino say he will do once the pearl is sold?
5. In the middle of page 27 Kino hears "the song of evil" faintly. Who do you think brings it in to Kino's house? Give a reason for your answer.
6. As the doctor approaches, why is Kino feeling rage?
7. On page 30 how does Kino feel trapped by his own ignorance?
8. What do you guess the doctor gives Coyotito?
9. How does the doctor find out where Kino has hidden the pearl?
10. After the intruder is driven off, what does Juana say of the pearl? Why?
11. Why can Kino not do this?

### Chapter 4 (pg. 40-56)

1. In the first paragraph how has the wholeness of the town been disrupted?
2. Why is there no longer any real competition among the pearl buyers?
3. Why is this a big day for the entire village?
4. In earlier times how did the pearl divers try to get a better price for their pearls and what happened to their effort?
5. How does Steinbeck show us that despite what he says, the pearl buyer is impressed by the size and beauty of the pearl?
6. Why does it take much courage for Kino to make the decision to go to the city?
7. Why is Kino's brother afraid for him?
8. What does Kino say this time when Juana again says they should get rid of the pearl because it brings evil?
9. At this point do you think Kino is right or is he just being stupid and willful?
10. What plans do they make for the next day?

### Chapter 5 (pg. 57-65)

1. What does Juana try to do with the pearl? Why? What does Kino do?
2. As they head for home, what two discoveries do they make? What does this signify?
3. What is Juan Tomas' opinion of the pearl at this point?

### Chapter 6

1. Why is Kino more convinced than ever that the pearl is of great value?
2. What awakens him from his sleep?
3. Who does Kino see in the road? Why does he say they will be back?
4. Why does Juana reject Kino's plan to separate?
5. What plan does Kino make to get rid of the trackers?
6. What happens to disrupt his plan?
7. In their return to the village, what is unusual in the manner that they are walking?
8. On page 85 how is Kino described?
9. In Chapter 1 when Kino first looked at the pearl he saw a church wedding for Juana and himself. On page 86 what does he see in the pearl now?
10. What action do Kino and Juana take at the end of this story? Why?
11. What does the pearl symbolize and what is the lesson to be learned?

**Walk Two Moons** - Answer two questions of your choice from each section.

### Chapters 1-4

1. Sal says her story is hidden beneath Phoebe's. What do you think she means by this?
2. Why is Phoebe's father so upset when the man at the state fair misgusses his age? Why is Phoebe so defensive about her father's age? In what ways does Phoebe's father act like he is 52?
3. What does Sal mean when she says that it was an "act of defiance" for Grandmother Pickford to name Sal's mother "Chanahassen"?
4. What do you think has happened to Sal's mother?

### Chapters 5-8

1. What makes Sal think Mrs. Winterbottom is unhappy?
2. Contrast the way Gram and Gramps speak with the way the Winterbottoms speak. Do the same with Phoebe and Mary Lou. What do we learn about the characters from their speech?
3. Sal says she feels "betrayed" by her mother. What does she mean by this?
4. Why does Sal's mother react the way she does to Sal's father's giving them flowers?
5. In what ways is Sal conflicted about her mother's leaving?
6. Why does Gram's smell make Sal sad?

### Chapters 9-12

1. In what ways is Mary Lou's house different from Phoebe's? In what ways is it different from Sal's home in Bybanks? Whose family would you most like to live with?
2. Phoebe gets a message that says, "Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins." What does this mean?
3. Why do Sal and her mother prefer the term Indian to Native American?
4. What does "Everyone has his own agenda" mean? Who do you think is leaving the messages?
5. Why did Gramps hit his best friend in the jaw?

### Chapters 13-16

1. Does Phoebe's mom really like to put the groceries away by herself?
2. Why does Sal think Phoebe's mom is upset? Why does Phoebe think she's fine?
3. What does Phoebe's mom mean by "tiny life"?
4. Why does the boy go with the Hiddles to the hospital?
5. By the end of chapter 16, what are the whispers saying to Sal? Why?

### Chapters 17-20

1. Why does Sal feel bad about yelling at her mother?
2. Why does Sal's father's being good make Sal's mother unhappy?
3. Why did Sal's mother leave?
4. Why did Sal's mother get upset at being called Sugar?
5. In what way does Mr. Birkway remind Sal of her mother?
6. How does Sal feel about "The Little Horse is NewLY," the poem that Mr. Birkway reads?
7. When Phoebe tells her mother about the lunatic, why doesn't her mother call the police?
8. How does Phoebe's family react to her mother's leaving? How does Sal react? In what ways are their reactions different from each other? How are they the same?

## Chapters 21-24

1. Why does Sal think the drawing of a tear is Phoebe's?
2. Why does Phoebe feel sick?
3. Why did Phoebe's mother leave the freezer full of meals?
4. Why did Sal's mother want to see her cousin?
5. After crossing the Badlands, what does Sal dream about?

## Chapters 25-28

1. Why does Phoebe make such a big deal about what she eats at the Finneys?
2. When Phoebe spends the night, why do she and Sal fight?
3. What does Sal dream about?
4. Why are Sal's grandparents so happy that she knows Phoebe's mother's leaving wasn't Phoebe's fault?
5. Why do you think Sal is afraid of cars?
6. Why don't Sal and her grandparents like Mount Rushmore? Why does Sal think the Sioux might be upset about the monument?

## Chapters 29-32

1. Why does Sal find the poem "The Tide Rises, the Tide Falls" by Longfellow so upsetting? How does Ben feel about it?
2. In what way does Sal think she and Phoebe are alike?
3. "We never know the worth of water until the well runs dry." In what ways so far has the story illustrated this?
4. Why is the class so upset when Mr. Birkway reads their journals out loud?
5. Mrs. Cadaver and Mr. Birkway are twins--in what ways are they alike?
6. What does the picture of the vase that Mr. Birkway shows the class have to do with poetry?

## Chapters 33-36

1. Why does Mr. Birkway apologize to Phoebe?
2. How does Sal feel when she walks in Mrs. Cadaver's moccasins?
3. Why does Gram tell Gramps about the egg man's letter?

## Chapters 37-40

1. Why does Sal run after seeing Phoebe's mother?
2. What makes Sal feel like a newly born colt?
3. In what way is Ben's situation like Phoebe's or Sal's?
4. Why doesn't Phoebe tell her family about seeing her mother?
5. Why does Sal agree to go to Phoebe's house?
6. Why didn't Mrs. Winterbottom tell her husband about her son?
7. How does Mr. Winterbottom feel about Mike? How does he feel about Mrs. Winterbottom?
8. Why do Phoebe and Sal spit?

## Chapters 41-44

1. In what way is Sal's mother's leaving like Moody Blue and the puppies?
2. Why does Gramps give Sal the keys to the car?
3. Why does Sal want to go onto the bus?
4. Why do the police take Sal to her mother's grave?
5. Why doesn't Sal look for the singing bird?

6. How do Sal's father and Mrs. Cadaver know each other? Why are they friends?
7. What does Sal mean when she says that Phoebe needs the lunatic?

### **Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:**

**Answer the following questions for *The Call of the Wild* and *A Light in the Forest* on a google document.**

The document will be turned in on classroom on the first day of school.

***The Call of the Wild* - Answer three questions of your choice from each section.**

Chapter 1-3

1. What is Buck's life like at Judge Miller's place?
2. Why does Buck assume he is simply out for a stroll with Manuel?
3. What does the man in the red sweater teach Buck?
4. Why was this an important lesson for Buck to learn?
5. What do François and Perrault expect of their dogs?
6. Why do they admire Buck?

Chapter 4-5

1. How do François and Perrault respond when they discover that Buck has killed Spitz?
2. Why had the dog team become unruly?
3. How are the dogs treated by the Scotch half-breed?
4. How does this become important to Buck's future?
5. What does Mercedes do to "help" the dogs that only ends up harming them?
6. What do her actions allow you to conclude about her, Hal, and Charles?

Chapter 6-7

1. Why was Thornton camping alone?
2. Why was he the ideal master?
3. What do Thornton and his partners find after a long search?
4. Why does this cause Buck to move toward the call of the wild?
5. What does Buck find when he returns to camp after killing the moose?
6. Why do the Yeehats consider Buck an Evil Spirit?
7. How does London create suspense in the scene in which Buck pulls the thousand-pound load?
8. Were you surprised by what happened to John Thornton? Why or why not?

***A Light in the Forest* - Answer two questions of your choice from each section**

Chapter 1

1. How old was True Son when he was adopted by the Indians?
2. For what reason was he adopted?
3. How many years does he live among the Indians?
4. What is True Son's reaction when he is told by his Indian father that he must return to his birth family?

## Chapter 2

1. Who is Del Hardy?
2. What duty is he supposed to carry out?
3. What is the reaction of the white captives when they are released by the Indians to the whites?
4. What is the reaction of the Indians as they give up their captives?

## Chapter 3

1. What is the May apple? Why does True Son wish to eat it?
2. Who accompanies True Son on the trail?
3. What does he give him? Why?

## Chapter 4

1. According to Half Crane, what are some of the differences between the white people and the Indians?
2. Why does True Son attack the guard?
3. What advice does Half Arrow give his cousin afterwards?
4. What does the river True Son then crosses symbolize?

## Chapter 5

1. What does True Son see after he leaves Fort Pitt that indicates he has entered the "barbarous homeland of his white enemies"?
2. How does True Son act when he meets his birth father?
3. What do you think father and son feel at that moment?

## Chapter 6

1. Compare/contrast Del Hardy's feelings when he returns to the white settlement to those of True Son.
2. Describe True Son's reunion with his family.

## Chapter 7

1. Briefly describe John's first night at home. Where does he sleep? Why?
2. Describe John's first encounter with his Uncle Wilse. Why do they argue?

## Chapter 8

1. What change does John make in his appearance and daily activities now that he is among the whites?
2. Who is Bejance? Why is John so happy to meet him? About whom does he tell John? As a result, what does John decide to do? Does he succeed? Why or why not?

## Chapter 9

1. Describe the circumstances surrounding John's abduction by the Indians eleven years ago.
2. What effect did his abduction have on his mother?
3. Why does John dislike Reverend Elder?
4. Compare/contrast John's attitude toward the Indians with that of Reverend Elder.

## Chapter 10

1. What is wrong with John? What methods does the doctor use to treat him?
2. Why does Parson Elder's son visit Harry Butler? What does this young man tell Mr. Butler?

## Chapter 11

1. How do the whites treat messages or letters?
2. How do the Indians treat them?
3. Why is John so concerned about letters and messages?
4. Why does John feel the "white medicine man's" tactics are of no use?
5. What does John hope the result of his illness will be? Why?
6. Who visits John one night while he is sick? What does this visitor tell John? What do John and his visitor do?

## Chapter 12

1. What decision does True Son make the morning after his escape from the whites?
2. What is his only regret about this decision?
3. Briefly describe the journey Half Arrow and True Son take. For approximately how long do they travel?
4. Describe how Half Arrow and True Son "steal" the trader's boat.

## Chapter 13

1. How do True Son and Half Arrow catch fish to eat?
2. How do True Son and Half Arrow pass their days in the forest?
3. What changes does True Son make in his appearance and why?

## Chapter 14

1. What do the family and village of True Son do when he returns?
2. Who refuses to be a part of this reunion? Why?
3. What do the men of the council decide to do? Why?
4. What are True Son's initial feelings when he joins the Indian war party?
5. What causes these feelings to change? Why?
6. What role is True Son to play in the attack on the whites?
7. Does he successfully fulfill this role?
8. Why or why not? What are the immediate effects of his actions?

## Chapter 15

1. How is True Son greeted when he returns to his "brothers"? What do they do to him?
2. When the council meets, what is it that they are to discuss? What does the council want to do to True Son?
3. What does Cuyloga do? What does he say to the council?
4. What does he tell True Son?
5. Describe the parting scene between Cuyloga and True Son. What does each say? **What must each be feeling at this moment?**
6. Remembering the river from Chapter 4, discuss what True Son's crossing this time symbolizes.