

Summer Reading Assignment for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Assignment is due **the first day of school.**

Dear Seventh Graders, Parents, and Guardians,

There is a required summer reading assignment for English Language Arts. The assignment will encourage the practice of writing and in-depth thought. There will be discussions and follow through with the assignments in September.

The assignment will be posted via the school website and extra copies will be available at the Ford Middle School main office.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade Literature teacher

bsmith@acushnet.k12.ma.us (Brenda Smith)

**Book Title:** Across Five Aprils

**Author:** Irene Hunt

**Literature Assignment:** Complete study guides 1 and 2. **To Think About As You Read** and the **Questions for Discussion**. Answer the following questions from the required reading. Make sure to use complete sentences, proper grammar, and spelling.

**Words to look for:** Using a dictionary, look up each word, and write what it means.

# STUDY GUIDE 1

## *Across Five Aprils*

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This Study Guide covers Chapters 1–6.

### **To Think About As You Read**

1. What tragedies have occurred in the Creighton family's past?
2. What makes southern Illinois particularly conflicted between North and South in the war?
3. How does the start of the Civil War divide the Creighton family?
4. How did people find out news about the war?
5. Why are local troublemakers threatening the Creightons?

### **Words to Look For**

Find each of the following words in the book. Then see if you can figure out each word's meaning from the way it is used.

secession	(Chapter 1)	pompous	(Chapter 4)
monotonous	(Chapter 1)	abolitionist	(Chapter 5)
downtrodden	(Chapter 2)	Copperhead	(Chapter 5)
eloquence	(Chapter 3)	ruffians	(Chapter 6)

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What qualities does Jethro respect and admire in Shadrach Yale?
2. Do you agree or disagree with Matt Creighton's decision that Jenny is too young for marriage? Why or why not?
3. What events contribute to Jethro's quick transition from boy to man within the novel?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## STUDY GUIDE 2

### *Across Five Aprils*

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This Study Guide covers Chapters 7–12.

#### **To Think About As You Read**

1. What problems plagued the Union generals?
2. How did the desertion of soldiers affect civilians?
3. Why did Lincoln face so much criticism in the North?
4. What made the battles of Gettysburg and Chickamauga so important in the war?
5. How was Jethro forever changed by Lincoln's assassination? How does Lincoln's assassination affect the nation?

#### **Words to Look For**

Find each of the following words in the book. Then see if you can figure out each word's meaning from the way it is used.

zeal	(Chapter 7)	pandemonium	(Chapter 10)
tenacious	(Chapter 7)	amnesty	(Chapter 11)
gangrenous	(Chapter 9)	preponderance	(Chapter 11)
inept	(Chapter 10)	imminence	(Chapter 12)

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Do you agree or disagree with Lincoln's decision on deserters? Why or why not?
2. What qualities made General Robert E. Lee such a formidable opponent for Union forces?
3. How has Jethro matured since the beginning of the novel?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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