

## 8th Grade Humanities Summer Reading Assignment

**Teacher:** Mrs. Cindy Nick **email:** cnick@brookhill.org

**Book:** *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan

**Assignment Due Date:** Monday, August 18, 2025

**Instructions:** Print out the attached reading guide and comprehension questions. Fill out the reading guide as you read making sure to respond in complete sentences. Turn in completed reading guide on or before the due date. Answers may be handwritten or typed. This assignment will count as a **test grade** and will not be accepted late. Additional activities and discussions will accompany this novel during the first two weeks of school.

### ***Introduction to the novel:***

*The Pilgrim's Progress* is a Biblical allegory. A **Biblical allegory** is a symbolic story which reveals hidden spiritual messages, hidden characters, and contains Biblical themes (messages).

Every character, place, and event is **symbolic** of something else. This reading guide will help you identify the hidden messages behind each character's personality, every place visited, and the spiritual lessons intended for the reader.

For example: The protagonist, Graceless, is born again, and his name is changed to Christian, reflecting his new life in Christ. Likewise, each character's name will reveal their personality. In addition, each place Christian visits on his journey will also represent something Biblically. For instance, the "City of Destruction" represents death, Hell, or the life of unsaved individuals.

As you read, you will need your *Bible*. Put yourself in Christian's shoes. Reading this novel is an opportunity for your faith to deepen.

Finally, pray before you read. Call on the Lord to help you understand *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Jeremiah 33:3 promises, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

# *The Pilgrim's Progress*

By John Bunyan

## **Pages 1-27:**

1. Why does Christian weep as he read the Bible?
2. What does Christian's burden represent?
3. How do Christian's family and friends respond to his ideas and decisions?
4. What does it mean to be "born again"?
5. Evangelist is the first person Christian meets on his journey. How is his name symbolic of his character?
6. What does Evangelist tell Christian to follow?
7. Write John 8:12. Who is Christian following?
8. Write Matthew 7:7. What does knocking represent?
9. Who does the gatekeeper represent? Read John 10:7-10.
10. Who are the next 2 people Christian meets? How are their names symbolic of their character?
11. What does the City of Destruction represent?
12. Pliable and Obstinate, Christian's neighbors, travel with him and try to get him to turn from his journey. Why don't they have burdens on their back?

13. What is the Slough (pronounced “slew”) of Despond?
14. Why does Christian fall into the Slough?
15. Help rescues Christian from the Slough. Which part of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) does He represent?
16. When is Christian saved?
17. Where will Christian be freed from his great burden?
18. What do you think the dust and the sprinkling of water represent in the room of the Interpreter?
19. Explain the last quote on pg. 23. What is Bunyan’s warning to his readers?
20. At what structure does Christian lose his burden?
21. Why does Christian stand weeping? Is he happy, sad, or both? Why?
22. In Christian’s song, who is “the man who there was put to shame for me”?
23. We are about to embark on a journey to the Celestial City with Christian. Are you ready?

### **Pages 27-37**

1. What is Christian’s response to Formalist and Hypocrisy as they reject coming through the gate to enter the narrow way?
2. As Christian ascends the Hill of Difficulty staying on the narrow way, he sings, “Better, though difficult, the right way to go, than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.” What does this mean?

3. What are the names of the 2 paths that lead around the Hill of Difficulty?
4. Although afraid of the lions and dangers that Timorous and Mistrust speak, Christian decides to keep going forward? Why?
5. As Christian approaches the Palace Beautiful, Watchful calms his fears by saying that the lions are chained. What is their purpose?
6. While in the palace, how does Christian answer Prudence's question, "What is it that makes you desire to go to the Celestial City?"
7. What reasons does Christian give for his wife and children not following him on the narrow way?

**Pages 38-49:**

1. While Christian is staying at the Palace Beautiful, he is shown many things in 3 days. List what he is shown or receives on each day.  
  
Day One:  
  
  
Day Two:  
  
  
Day Three:
2. Who is the Man of Sin?
3. What is the meaning of Emmanuel?

4. Why do you think the 4 women fit Christian with the Lord's armor? Read Eph. 6:10-18.
5. What could the bread, wine, and raisins (dried grapes) represent?
6. Using descriptive language, what does Apollyon look like?
7. Read 1 Peter 5:8. How does this verse apply to Apollyon?
8. What kind of Words does Christian use to confront and defeat Apollyon?
9. To whom does Christian give the glory and credit for his victory over Apollyon?
10. *FYI: Beelzebub is an ancient name for Satan. Remember this fact. You will read it again later.*
11. Christian is afraid as he goes into The Valley of the Shadow of Death. What new weapon does he use now?
12. Christian becomes calm when he hears a voice ahead of him saying,  
“ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”  
Who do you think said this to him? Why did this person say this to Christian?

## **Pages 49-65**

1. Who is Christian's traveling companion?
2. What does his traveling companion's name reflect about his character?

3. How do Christian and his new companion encourage each other as they journey together?
4. What does Talkative talk about incessantly?

### **Pages 65-77**

1. Before Christian and Faithful reach Vanity Fair, how does Evangelist give them a “pep talk”?
2. Why did Beelzebub, Apollyon, Legion, and their companions create the town of Vanity?
3. What could a pilgrim find in the town?
4. Who is the Blessed One and how much did He spend in Vanity Fair?
5. How are Christian and Faithful different than the inhabitants of Vanity?
6. “Truth” was the only thing Christian and Faithful want to buy. What is “Truth”?
7. What did Evangelist tell Christian and Faithful about suffering? How does this bring comfort to them while they are in chains?
8. Briefly summarize what happens during the trial with Judge Hate Good.
9. How is Faithful martyred for his faith?
10. How does Faithful live and die according to his name?
11. How does Christian escape and leave Vanity?

## **Pages 77-111**

1. After Christian flees Vanity, the Lord sends a new companion to Christian. How does his new friend's name reflect how the Lord is encouraging Christian?
2. What is the "root" sin of By-Ends, Hold-the-World, Money-Love, and Save-All. Read all of their explanations carefully.
3. Bunyan makes reference to Judas. What does he have in common with the above characters?
4. While in the dungeon of Doubting Castle, the Giant of Despair beats and starves Christian and Hopeful. How does Hopeful represent his name well during this time?
5. What weapon does Christian use BEFORE he remembers the key in his pocket?
6. What was the key called? What does it symbolize?
7. Why do you think Christian and Hopeful create the road sign to warn for future pilgrims of the Giant of Despair?
8. As the shepherds of Emmanuel's Land speak to Christian and Hopeful, what are they doing for the pilgrims?
9. How is Ignorance oblivious? (if you don't know the meaning of "oblivious," look it up)
10. What emotion should have been a warning to Christian as he follows the man dressed in the white robe? (read 1 Corinthians 14:33)

**Pages 111-185:**

1. Righteousness means: “right standing with God because of what Jesus did for you.” What do you think self-righteousness means?
2. How does Hopeful’s explanation of self-righteous parallel Isaiah 64:6?
3. Who led Hopeful to Christ and where did this person lead Hopeful to Christ?
4. How does Hopeful say he “saw” Jesus? Wow! This is awesome!!!
5. How does Ignorance’s life reflect Proverbs 3:5-6?
6. How do Christian and Hopeful encourage one another as they travel through the Enchanted Ground?
7. In descriptive words, describe Beulah Land.
8. What must Christian and Hopeful pass through in order to get to the Celestial City and what does it represent?
9. What determined the depth of the river through which all pilgrims must pass?
10. Why is Christian afraid as he crosses the divide, and how does Hopeful encourage him?
11. Christian quotes Isaiah 43:2 as he crosses. What can we learn from this scripture?
12. What do the mortal garments represent?
13. What does the Heavenly Host say as they gaze at the Holy One? Read Revelation 4:8.
14. What happens to Ignorance?



## **Pages 136-185**

1. As Christiana and her sons weep, who comes to her door and invites her to journey to the Celestial City?
2. How do Christian's mistakes during his journey serve as a warning to Christiana on her journey?
3. What is Beulah Land?