

## 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 hidden messages and 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 spiritual. For instance, the "City of Destruction" represents death, Hell, or the fate 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 own 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

1. Why is Christian weeping and distressed after reading his book?
2. What does Christian's burden represent?
3. How do Christian's family and friends respond to his decision to leave the City of Destruction?
4. What does the City of Destruction represent?
5. What does it mean to be "born again" in the spiritual sense?
6. Evangelist is the first person Christian meets on his journey. How is his name symbolic of his character?
7. Write the scripture John 8:12.
8. Write Matthew 7:7. What does knocking represent?
9. What does Mr. Worldly Wiseman advise Christian to do, and how does Evangelist respond?
10. What does the Wicket Gate represent in Christian's journey?
11. Who does the gatekeeper represent? Read John 10:7-10.
12. What do the characters Obstinate and Pliable represent, and how does their journey with Christian reveal their true character?

13. What is the Slough (pronounced “slew”) of Despond?
14. Why does Christian fall into the Slough?
15. The character of 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. Where will Christian be freed from his great burden?
17. What is the purpose of the Interpreter’s House, and what does Christian learn there?
18. What happens to Christian’s burden when he reaches the cross, and what does this symbolize?
19. What is Christian’s response to Formalist and Hypocrisy as they reject coming through the gate to enter the narrow way?
20. 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?
21. What are the names of the 2 paths that lead around the Hill of Difficulty?
22. Although afraid of the lions and dangers that Timorous and Mistrust speak, Christian decides to keep going forward? Why?
23. What reasons does Christian give for his wife and children not following him on the narrow way?
24. Who is the Man of Sin?
25. Why do you think the 4 women fit Christian with the Lord’s armor? Read Eph. 6:10-18.

26. Using descriptive language, what does Apollyon look like?
27. Read 1 Peter 5:8. How does this verse apply to Apollyon?
28. What kind of words does Christian use to confront and defeat Apollyon?
29. Christian is afraid as he goes into The Valley of the Shadow of Death. What new weapon does he use now?
30. What is Vanity Fair, and why do Christian and Faithful face trouble there?
31. Why did Beelzebub, Apollyon, Legion, and their companions create the town of Vanity?
32. How are Christian and Faithful different than the inhabitants of Vanity?
33. "Truth" was the only thing Christian and Faithful want to buy. What is "Truth"?
34. What did Evangelist tell Christian and Faithful about suffering? How does this bring comfort to them while they are in chains?
35. How does Christian escape and leave Vanity?
36. 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?
37. 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?
38. Why do you think Christian and Hopeful create the road sign to warn for future pilgrims of the Giant of Despair?
39. What emotion should have been a warning to Christian as he follows the man dressed in the white robe? (read 1 Corinthians 14:33)

40. Righteousness means: “right standing with God because of what Jesus did for you.” What do you think self-righteousness means?
41. How does Hopeful’s explanation of self-righteous parallel Isaiah 64:6?
42. Who led Hopeful to Christ and where did this person lead Hopeful to Christ?
43. How does Hopeful say he “saw” Jesus?
44. How does Ignorance’s life reflect Proverbs 3:5-6?
45. In descriptive words, describe Beulah Land.
46. What must Christian and Hopeful pass through in order to get to the Celestial City and what does it represent?
47. How do Christian and Hopeful describe their feelings upon entering the Celestial City?
48. As Christiana and her sons weep, who comes to her door and invites her to journey to the Celestial City?
49. What is the overall message or moral of Christian’s journey in The Pilgrim’s Progress?
50. What lessons can readers learn about faith and perseverance from Christian’s pilgrimage?