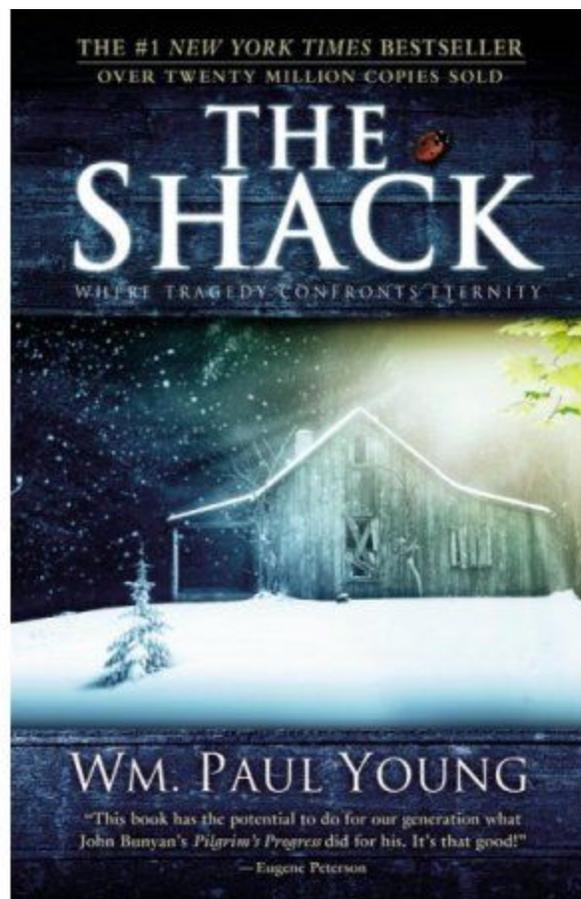


SUMMER ENGLISH BOOK ASSIGNMENT

FOR THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT THIS SCHOOL YEAR YOU WILL BE READING *THE SHACK* BY WILLIAM P.
YOUNG



YOU WILL HAVE TWO PARTS FOR YOUR SUMMER ASSIGNMENT. PLEASE READ ALL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY.

PART 1: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Please choose 4 out of the 6 questions to answer in complete sentences. All responses should be typed, 12 pt font, and Times New Roman. You will need to print out your responses and bring for the first week of school. All responses should be answered in 400 words minimum.

1. Does the idea of God, a character in the book, or God's first-person voice, bother you...or does it work within the context of *The Shack's* story? Why is God portrayed as a woman? Explain. Please use biblical passages to help explain.
2. Why did God let Missy die? Do you think *The Shack* answers convincingly the central question of why, if there is a God, bad things happen to good people? Were you satisfied with God's answers to Mack about suffering? What does Saint Paul say about suffering in Romans 5:3-5. Explain.
3. What does *The Shack* say about forgiveness—toward the self or toward those who have wronged you? Do you agree with this idea? What does the Catholic Church say about forgiveness in the Act of Contrition. Please list 3 parts of the Act of Contrition that stand out to you and explain.
4. Many readers find the first 4 chapters of *The Shack* almost too painful to read. Could they have been written in a way that would be less painful—without changing the book's message? Explain.
5. Does the book's ultimate message satisfy you? Is it possible to let go of control and certainty in life? Is it possible to live only in the present? Explain ? What is the Catholic world view of life after death according to Sacred Scripture. Explain.
6. What were your thoughts about Mack's reconciliation with his father? In what ways do our relationships with our parents define us? Color our relationship with God? With others?

PART 2: PROJECT -The Trinity in Everyday Life

In *The Shack* Young has three diverse individuals representing God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is important to note this novel is a work of fiction and is in no way a theological explanation of the Trinity nor a complete view of the Catholic Faith.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Create a presentation which includes written explanations and images to teach your school community about:

- what the Trinity is,
- who each of the Divine Persons are, and
- why it makes a difference to Catholics in their daily lives and relationships to believe in a Trinitarian God.

Your presentation must fulfill the following criteria by explaining each of the following three main concepts:

1. Catholics are both monotheistic and Trinitarian because we believe in one God who is three Persons, united but distinct in their origin and work:
 - God the Father is the source of all life, and he longs to be in an intimate, loving relationship with us.
 - The Son, Jesus Christ, is fully God and fully man, having assumed a human nature for our salvation.
 - The Holy Spirit shares the Son's mission to bring us into the Church, the Body of Christ, as adopted children of God.
2. The Nicene Creed expresses the core truths of the Church. Use specific passages from the Creed to correlate to Catholic teaching on each person of the Trinity.
3. The Trinity is a model of love for human relationships, and we can start by building these relationships in our family and school community.

- Use 3 specific and concrete examples of ways in which you can live out the Trinitarian model of love in your human relationships at home and school. You will have a total of 6 examples: home-3, school-3.

Your presentation may be completed using: PowerPoint, Keynote, Prezi or Google Slides. You will submit your project electronically the first day of school.

**These assignments are ALL due the first week of school along with the discussion questions.