

Morris Catholic High School

Incoming Freshman Reading and Response Activity for World History 2018 - 2019

HIROSHIMA

By JOHN HERSEY

ISBN: 978-0- 679-72103- 1

John Hersey's Hiroshima is a mass produced paperback, available as an eBook, and can be purchased at Barnes and Noble. It is also available in most local libraries.

Your assignment over the summer is to read the book and answer the questions which appear below. The questions are going to be organized by chapter. We suggest that you read a chapter at a time.

Here are some basic instructions:

1. Review the questions for each chapter before you read the chapter.
2. Read the chapter, being sure to read for comprehension and understanding – NOT just to find the answers to the questions.
3. Type up your answers after reading each chapter. If you read a chapter a day, it will take you only 5 days to complete the assignment. The key however is to read for comprehension. Part of any reading assignment is the development of vocabulary, and this assignment is no different. You will be given some vocabulary words to define in each chapter and you will also be asked to provide answers to questions based on content. Please type your vocabulary words first, and then answer the questions. It is NOT necessary to type the questions, but your answers should be numbered for each chapter. For example Chapter 1, question 1 should be 1.1 on your typed answer sheet. Chapter 2, question 1, should be 2.1 etc.

Background: you may recall from your 7th and 8th grade history that on December 7, 1941 Japan attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This attack resulted in the United States' entry into World War II. The Americans had to fight on two fronts; one in Europe against the Germans and the Italians, and the second front in the Pacific against the Japanese. After defeating Hitler in Europe in May, 1945, attention was turned to defeating the Empire of Japan in the Pacific. President Harry Truman was given information that the United States had developed a very powerful bomb (the atomic bomb) and many in the military advised him to use this potent weapon against the Japanese. No country had ever exploded an atomic bomb in war and so it was not known what results would be in using such a weapon. The alternative for the United States was to invade the islands of Japan and fight the Japanese army on their home soil. Many in the United States thought this would result in the death of many Americans and the

destruction of many Japanese cities. Truman decided to use this new weapon; the A-bomb. The military picked the city of Hiroshima as the first target. Hiroshima was a city that produced considerable arms for Japan's use in the war. Further a large number of Japanese soldiers were stationed there. Thus this city seemed to be a good target for the use of the A-bomb.

The Book: John Hersey's book Hiroshima has become a classic in American non-fiction literature. It tells the story of six people who survived the bombing of the city and what it was like to be in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

The book is divided into five chapters

1. The Noiseless Flash – survivors tell of what happened when the bomb hit.
2. The Fire – how the city reacted, the panic and results of the bomb.
3. Details are Being Investigated – rumors about what happened and the start of recovery.
4. Panic Grass and Feverfew – we learn of the illnesses and problems that occurred.
5. The Aftermath – Hersey interviews the survivors 40 years after

So now you know a little about the background and the book, it's time to start reading. Please see above for a suggested method in getting this assignment done without too much fuss and bother. Type your answers, prepare a cover sheet with your name, grade, and the name and author of the book. Use the following format for typing up your answers:

1.1. The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at 8:15 in the morning on August 6, 1945.

(Now you have the first answer. The rest is up to you).

Hint: Next to each vocabulary word or content question is a number inside parentheses. For most editions of the book, that number will give you the page on which to look for the word or information to be supplied. But, again, please read for understanding.

GOOD LUCK ON THIS ASSIGNMENT. It will be collected in the first week of school and will be your first grade in Freshman History at Morris Catholic. Please e.mail Mr. DiFalco (fdifalco@morriscatholic.org) if you have any questions over the summer. Looking forward to meeting all of you in September!!!

Chapter One: A Noiseless Flash (pages 1 – 16)

VOCABULARY:

rendezvous (page 2) abstinence (page 3) prominence (3)

philanthropies (page 4) incendiary (8) pommelled (9)

hedonistic (9) incessant (9) xenophobic (11)

1. What was the date and time when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima? (1)
2. How many people were killed by the atomic bomb? (2)
3. What was the largest population of Hiroshima before the war? (4) The war time population?

4. What did most of the Japanese houses look like? (5)
5. How did high school girls help with the war effort? (8)
6. In Japan what was the custom for people who had to be in a hospital? (9)

Chapter 2: The Fire (pages 17 – 41)

VOCABULARY:

solicitous (page 17) miasma (18) conflagration (20)

incapacitated (24) apathetic (27) paroxysm (34)

ionization (35) fission (35) convection (39)

1. What locations did the Japanese use for emergency evacuations? (page 17)
2. How was the weather immediately affected by the bomb blast? (18-19 and 24)
3. What caused most of the fires? (20)
4. How much of the medical staff was left in Hiroshima? (24)
5. About how many people were not injured by the bomb? (25)
7. What food did the evacuees find to eat? (40)

Chapter 3: Details are Being Investigated (pages 42 – 65)

VOCABULARY:

abrasions (46) credence (62) festered (49)

gangrene (55) grotesquely (43) immolate (56)

moribund (63) pyre (63) sloughed (45)

succor (42) suppurated (45)

1. Why was Hiroshima picked as a target for the atomic bomb? (43)
2. Who was the US President who announced what had happened on August 7 th ? (44)
3. What “triage” method did doctors follow at the evacuation area? (50)
4. What happened to the soldiers who looked directly at the blast? (51)
5. When and where was the second bomb dropped ? (57)
6. How did people attempt to locate family members? (62)
7. When and how did the Japanese people learn that the war was over? (64)
8. What did the Japanese believe about Tenno? (65)

Chapter 4: Panic Grass and Feverfew (pages 66 – 90)

VOCABULARY:

capricious (68) decrepit (67) macabre (67)

malaise (68) verdancy (69) remnants (70)

retrospect (76) façade (86) crux (90)

1. Describe the size and look of the “scar”? (67)
2. What was the effect of radiation on the plants? (70)
3. What rumor about the bomb angered the Japanese? (72)
5. What happened to the human reproductive systems of the survivors? (78)
6. How many usable buildings remained in the city after the bomb? (81)
7. Why don't cities build bomb shelters any more to protect from atomic warfare? (82)
8. Why did some of the survivors suffer relapses? (85)
9. What are some of the ethical arguments for and against the use of the bomb? (89 – 90)

Chapter 5 – The Aftermath (pages 91 – 152). For this section of the book, select one person among the survivors and explain what he or she did with the rest of his or her life.

Finally, complete your assignment with at least one paragraph explaining your opinion as to whether or not the United States should have dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

You should feel free to include any other information or knowledge that you have on this topic.

One final note about the Japanese words that Hersey uses. Each time he use a word in Japanese, he explains or defines it, so please pay attention to the such words and their definitions as it will help in your understanding and comprehension.

When we meet in September we will have a discussion on this book and your teachers will collect the responses to the above questions.

Once again, good luck, and email Mr. DiFalco with any questions.

Thanks