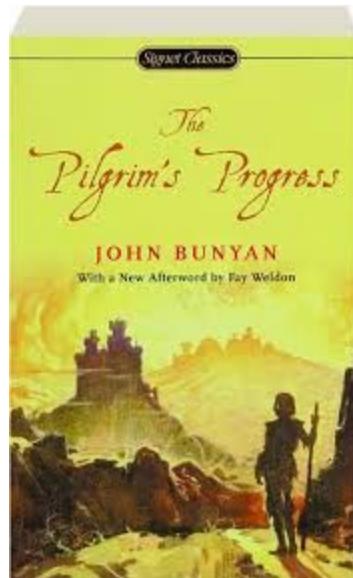




GREENVILLE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Literature and Composition B Summer Reading Assignment 2019



Purpose of assignment: The purpose is to develop comprehension and critical reading skills while analyzing a story and recognizing the allegorical significance of the characters and places during the journey. The packet material and book content will be used as the basis of our first essay.

Grading: Packet questions will count as a homework grade. Upon return to school, there will be a minor essay on the entire novel as well as a major project which will count as a test grade.

Expected time for completion: Reading times will vary. Depending on which edition you purchase, the book will take about 6-7 hours on average. Packet work will be completed during reading and will assist in comprehension but may take about 60 - 90 minutes.

Note: The time required to complete this assignment will vary. This is only a rough estimate to help with planning. Students should keep in mind their own study habits and pace of work in budgeting time to complete this assignment.

Introduction

The Pilgrim's Progress is the greatest allegory in English, and perhaps, in any language. For nearly 300 years, if a home had any books at all, the family had a Bible and Bunyan's allegory. It has been continually in print since its first publication.

The term "allegory" refers to any work where the literal words merely represent their deeper, symbolic meanings. In other words, concrete and material images are used to represent more abstract ideas; thus, in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Christian represents the Christian believer struggling through this world (the City of Destruction) as he journeys through this life and to his final home (the Celestial City).

John Bunyan wrote his allegory while in prison. Bunyan was imprisoned due to his refusal to obtain the required license to preach the gospel. During the seventeenth century, England had undergone several revolutions, both politically and religiously. Bunyan belonged to a growing number of "dissenters." Even though they were not Catholics, the dissenters refused to participate with the Church of England. In order to control the dissenters, the state religion required all preachers to get a license if they wished to preach. Bunyan believed that his accepting a license from the state would make him a tool in the hands of the state. Bunyan refused the license, because it violated the principle of the separation of church and state. He continued to preach to his congregation without the license and was later arrested. Most of *The Pilgrim's Progress* was written during this imprisonment.

Assignment

Obtain a copy of *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Read Part I, which is Christian's journey, and answer the Study Guide questions below. We will **not** read Part II, Christiana, his wife, and children's journey. The original work is written in Olde English, but please don't let this turn you away. There is such richness and beauty in the words of this original version. If, however, you cannot comprehend what you are reading, there are other options. *The Pilgrim's Progress in Modern English*, Revised and Updated by L. Edward Hazelbaker is a very good option.

https://www.amazon.com/Pilgrims-Progress-English-Updated-Classics/dp/0882707574/ref=asc_df_0882707574/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=312065522531&hvpos=1o2&hvnetw=g&hvrand=7280238538630965509&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1025611&hvtargid=pla-569806796845&psc=1

You may also choose an audio version. Orion's Gate dramatized version is highly recommended. There are several options from which to choose: an MP3 download, MP3 disc, or audio CDs. Samples of the audio and ordering information can be found here: <https://orionsgate.org/>

Please do not choose a version aimed specifically for small children, such as *Little Pilgrim's Progress* or even *Dangerous Journey*. These editions do cover all aspects of the allegory.

Optional Fun Extras

For those students who like to supplement their reading/listening with artistry, there are beautiful black and white pictures here http://www.bunyanministries.org/?page_id=281 and here

http://www.bunyanministries.org/?page_id=284 which can be printed out and colored to give a visual representation to what you are reading.

Also, attached at the end of this document is a map of Christian's journey. You may print this out and follow Christian on his journey to the Celestial City. It could be helpful for your reading to place the characters which Christian meets on the map where he encounters them.

Enjoy this beautiful allegory to its fullest! Once you have completed *The Pilgrim's Progress* you can count yourself among millions of people who have read the most famous Christian allegory still in print. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ltraylor@greenvilleclassical.com.

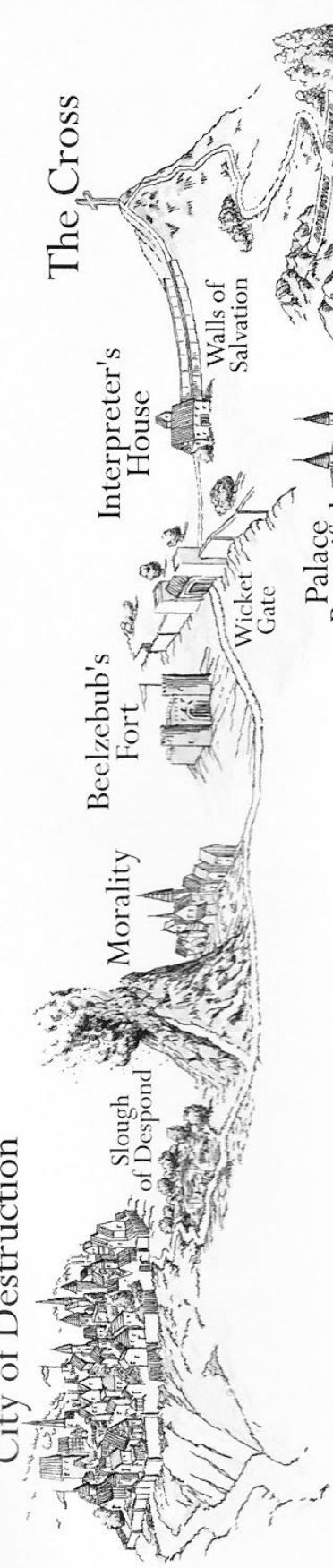
Study Guide Questions

Please complete these questions before the beginning of school.

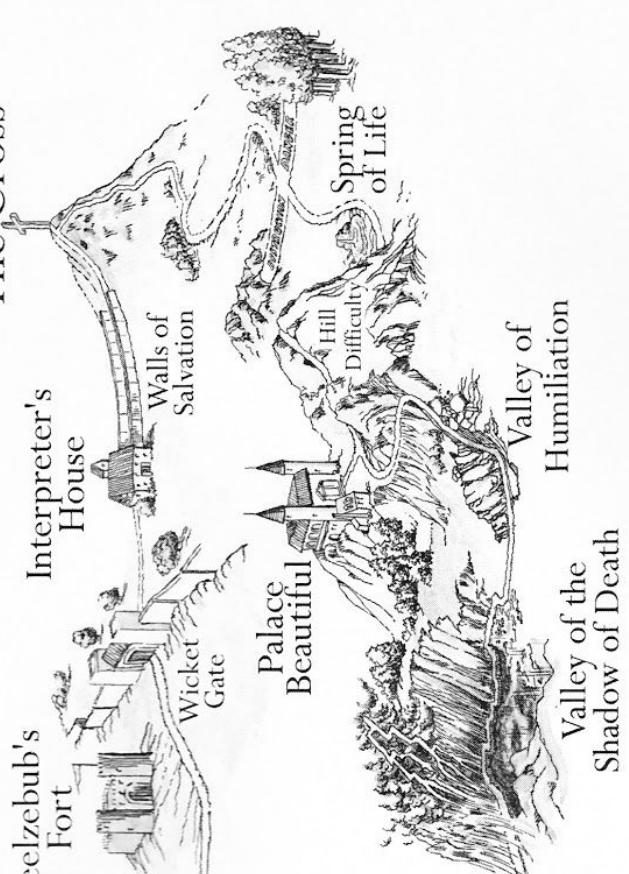
1. How did you feel when Christian left his family? Luke 14: *If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.*
2. Did you notice that it seemed that few people were carrying burdens like the one Christian carries? What do you think Christian's burden was? Job 21: 7-11 *Why do the wicked live on, growing old and increasing in power? They see their children established around them, their offspring before their eyes. Their homes are safe and free from fear; the rod of God is not upon them. Their bulls never fail to breed; their cows calve and do not miscarry. They send forth their children as a flock; their little ones dance about.*
3. What do you think the Slough of Despond represents? Psalm 69: 1-2 *Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.*
4. What kind of man does Mr. Worldly-Wiseman represent? He warns against the Evangelist and tells Christian to get rid of the Bible as it should not be read by the uneducated. He points the way to the Village of Morality. This village represents the lifestyles of different religious groups or people.
5. Christian is forced to pass between two lions. In Bunyan's day the lion's would have represented governmental and religious tyranny. What do you think the lions could represent in today's culture?
6. Who does Apollyon represents?
7. What kind of person is Talkative? His actions betray his heart.
8. John Bunyan coined the phrase, "Vanity Fair" to characterize the worldly and materialistic lifestyle found in much of society. Give specific examples of how our world today is like Vanity Fair.

9. What caused Christian and Hopeful to leave the narrow path and enter By-path Meadow? They hardly knew they had done it until they find themselves in danger.
10. Did you notice how often Christian messes up? After all the battles he has won, it seems odd that he would again lose the path. Does Christian's difficulties seem typical of a person's walk with God?
11. What is Doubting Castle? How do you think the two men end up in Doubting Castle when they had just ate and rested?
12. Ignorance understands the Bible and acts like an involved and passionate Christian. He works hard and travels through difficulty until the end and yet he isn't saved. Why is that?
13. "The King then commanded that the gate be opened so that, as he declared, 'The righteous nation that keeps the truth may enter in.'" Most people want to go to heaven – in fact many unbelievers expect to go to heaven. And often people say, I want to go to heaven someday - just not now. Do you think these people understand heaven properly?
14. Why do you think Bunyan chose to end Christian's journey with the damnation of Ignorance, a relatively minor character, rather than the arrival of Christian in the Celestial City?

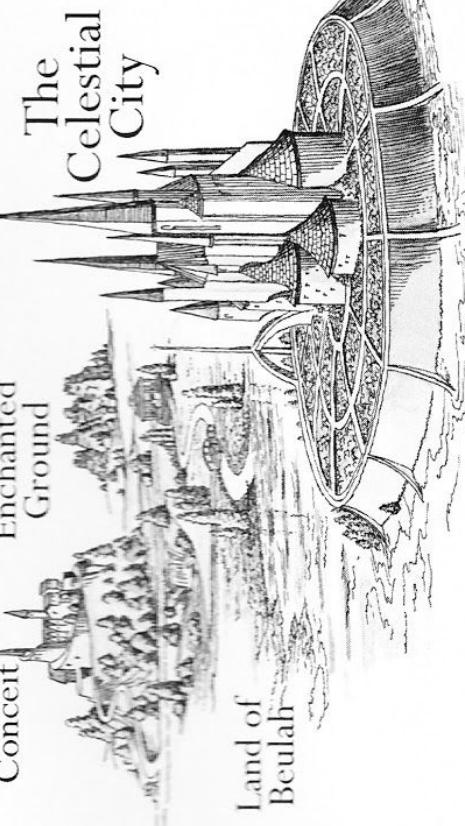
City of Destruction



The Cross



Vanity Fair



By-Way to Hell