

Greetings Rising Eight Graders:

The humanities course this year is a study of the American Culture. The following literature choice includes a correspondence with the historical period we will be studying.

Nothing to Fear by Jackie F. Koller-the poignant tale of an Irish immigrant family during the Great Depression and their will to survive against all odds. Please order early to avoid delays with summer reading goals.

Your graded assignment this summer is to complete eight journal responses. You will journal after every six chapters, and the book contains forty-eight chapters. Use a composition journal such as the Mead black and white type. Journals should be at least one full page. Write on every line in the script of your choice, cursive or print. It must be legible. You may also use this journal for English and history this year. Please note specific directions and questions for each journal response:

Journal 1, chapters 1-6: Discuss setting and main characters. Are the characters likeable, realistic, or just annoying? Explain. Can you relate to their struggles and accomplishments? What do you like best about Danny Garvey's personality? Least?

Journal 2, chapters 7-12: Discuss the conflict the Garvey family is experiencing and what society as a whole is experiencing during the Great Depression. Give specific details when possible.

Journal 3, chapters 13-18: Discuss how the tenants help and encourage each other during these difficult times. Why is it so difficult for Danny to accept charity? Predict who you think is the better friend, Mickey or Maggie? Why?

Journal 4, chapters 19-24: Discuss how WWI contributes to Mr. Riley's alcoholism. What is Mrs. Garvey's opinion of President Hoover? Why is Roosevelt looked to as a savior? Can you predict why Mrs. Garvey is so ill?

Journal 5, chapters 25-30: Discuss what happens when men get an empty look in their eyes. How was Danny able to deal with his Christmas "disappointment?" How did he help Maggie in the midst of his sorrow?

Journal 6, chapters 31-36: Describe what happened to Luther White. Why are the Sullivan brothers so hostile? Explain Sadie's comments at the end of chapter 34. Do you believe she gave Danny good advice? What does Maggie think about pride?

Journal 7, chapters 37-42: Discuss how a family as needy as the Garvey's can consider helping Hank Powers. Explain how Hank secures a job and how this helps the Garveys. Who arrives early, and what is Danny's opinion of the name *Padriac*. What is his suggestion?

Journal 8, Chapters 43-48: Discuss how the conflict was resolved and the theme (reoccurring idea) of the book. Did you enjoy the story? What truths from the novel have impacted you? Would you make any changes in this narrative? How would these changes improve the book?