

SECOND QUARTER

READER: *THESE ARE OUR FREEDOMS*

WORKBOOK: *READING 7 FOR YOUNG CATHOLICS – COMPREHENSION*

BOOK REPORT: MEN OF IRON

BEFORE WE BEGIN, LET'S GO OVER THE SECOND QUARTER BOOK REPORT.

SECOND QUARTER BOOK REPORT: MEN OF IRON

Men of Iron Book Report

Men of Iron, by Howard Pyle, is the story of a young man who became a knight in the early 1400's in England. Howard Pyle is not only an author who makes a story exciting, but his excellent detailed illustrations make the story come alive.

Before you read the book, look on the Seton web site at www.setonhome.org, for a number of questions and comments, chapter by chapter, to help you think about the meaning of the events in the story.

Before you start reading the book, you may want to read about Henry IV of England and knighthood. We will add some information on the Seton web site.

We Catholics are very aware that the knights of the Middle Ages were very much regulated by Church laws. In addition, the knights were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the ceremonies were church related. Yet in most of the book, while Myles goes to daily chapel, we see little religious values or even any reference to God or the Church. It is really not until the last part of the story that we see a sudden reliance on God and prayer.

For your book report, we want you to think about three themes in this book. As you read, underline or highlight those sentences or phrases which relate to these three themes so you can include them in your book report.

Start your introductory paragraph with this sentence: ***Men of Iron*, by Howard Pyle, is the story of a young man of the early 1400's in England, whose character develops as he trains to become a knight.** Follow this introductory sentence with three sentences introducing the topics of the next three paragraphs. Write the following thesis statement as the last sentence of your introductory paragraph: **The hero in *Men of Iron*, by Howard Pyle, proves that a willingness to sacrifice and stand up for what is right will result in happiness.**

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph pray for us.

Reading 7 Lesson Plans

Your second paragraph should have the following topic sentence: **Myles Falworth was willing to make great sacrifices for his personal principles of right and wrong.** You should then give at least three specific examples of the sacrifices that Myles was willing to make for his principles. Conclude this paragraph with a very brief statement of your conclusion about these sacrifices.

Your next paragraph should have the following topic sentence: **After Myles became a knight, he dedicated himself, through great personal sacrifices, to regaining his father's good reputation.** Please give at least three specific examples of the sacrifices that Myles made to help regain the good reputation of his father. Conclude this paragraph with a very brief statement of your conclusion about these sacrifices.

Your next paragraph should have the following topic sentence: **After Myles became a knight, he illustrated his religious character and trust in God.** Please give at least three specific examples illustrating his religious character and his trust in God. Conclude this paragraph with a very brief statement of your conclusion about these characteristics.

Your concluding paragraph should have as a topic sentence: ***Men of Iron*, by Howard Pyle, illustrates the character development of young Myles Falworth in England's fifteenth-century culture.** Using the points developed in the previous paragraphs - his sacrifices for principles, his sacrifices for his father's reputation, and his religious characteristics - write a statement of your personal conclusion with your opinion of Myles as a role model for today's young people.

Alternative Second Quarter Book Report: *Johnny Tremain*: NOTE TO PARENT:

In previous years, the book report assigned was for *Johnny Tremain*. We chose *Men of Iron* for this year because it is a little easier to follow, and has a Catholic perspective. Nevertheless, if you would prefer your child to do a report on *Johnny Tremain*, we are leaving the following notes in these lesson plans.

Johnny Tremain, a combination of adventure, history, and danger, is a classic that all American students should read to appreciate the life in Boston as it appeared just prior to the Revolutionary War. Johnny Tremain is a young man who lives in colonial Boston and works for a Boston newspaper. In addition to delivering papers, he delivers secret messages for Samuel Adams and the Boston Committee, a secret communications network for the American "rebels."

While some students may find the first four or five chapters a little slow, as the background of Johnny Tremain is unfolded, the later events in the story are fast-paced and exciting. Some readers might want to read the last few chapters first to get all the excitement up front!

The details of the Boston Tea Party give a picture of controlled determination to send a message to the British, but without violence or personal gain. Along with Paul Revere and the

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