

# Grade 8 Summer 2016 Reading Assignment

## *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline B. Cooney

Please complete the following short answer questions. Please remember to write in complete sentences. Responses should be 1 paragraph in length (containing 7-10 sentences.) Please select 5 of the 10 prompts below. Responses need to be typed. Format of paper must be: 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced. Response paper needs to include student name and date. The answers are due on **Friday, September 2, 2016.**

1. Where is Janie, as the story begins and what is her conflict? What do you think about her teacher, Mr. Brylowe? What about Janie? How is the school year going for her? Do others like her?
2. Janie's parents argue in front of her. What has she learned about her parents from watching them argue? Has it been healthy for her to watch their arguments? Why or why not? Is it healthy for parents to argue in front of their children? Explain your thinking.
3. Describe Janie. The author has hidden some symbolism in her description of Janie. What is symbolism? What is she saying about Janie's inner character through her outer description? What do you think about this? How is Janie's character developing so far in the novel?
4. What reason does Reeve give for not doing his homework? What do you think is the real reason Reeve doesn't do his homework? What changes for him?
5. Do you think Mrs. Shields is correct when she says that Janie's mother has always been afraid? Look at what you know about Janie's mother. Does she seem fearful to you or not? Explain your thinking.
6. Janie says that "Nobody liked Ellen Winter. Nobody ever had, nobody ever would." Why do you think that nobody liked Ellen Winter? Why does everybody like Janie Johnson? Do you think that Janie is right that no one will ever like Ellen Winter? Explain your thinking.
7. An old proverb says that liars and cheaters never prosper. What does this mean? The Javensens' thought they would prosper by lying. Have they? Explain your thinking. The Javensens' believe they were good parents. What do you think about this?
8. Janie asks, "Why didn't Frank and Miranda see the newspaper coverage of the kidnapping?" What is unusual about the way she expresses her question? What is the answer that Janie accepts as the truth? What is the real answer? What kind of thinking were the Johnsons doing when Janie arrived in their lives?
9. Janie says she doesn't need to see the milk carton again because "It's over. I'm safe." What has changed to make Janie think that she is safer today than she was yesterday?
10. The novel ends in the middle of a conversation. What do you think was the response to Jennie's/ Janie's statement: "Hi. It's... your daughter. Me. Jennie."