

Grade 7 Summer 2016 Reading Assignment

City of Ember by Jeanne Duprau

Please complete the following essay questions. Please remember to write in complete sentences. Essay responses should be 1 to 2 paragraphs in length (each paragraph containing 7-10 sentences.) Essay Responses need to be typed. Format of paper must be: 12pt. font, Times New Roman, Double-Spaced. Response paper needs to include student name, date, and class name. Answers are due on **Friday, September 2, 2016.**

1. Doon and Lina like very different things. Doon wants to work in the Pipeworks; Lina yearns to be a messenger. Doon likes to study how things work. Lina likes to run and explore. But their friendship grows because they are ultimately searching for the same thing. How do they complement one another and help one another develop through the novel?
2. Earth today has many environmental and social issues. What sort of problems could have led to the building of the City of Ember?
3. Clary tells Lina, "Everyone has some darkness inside." (p. 168) Light and color both play very key roles in the novel. In what ways, other than the failing street lamps, are color and light important?
4. The possibility of never-ending darkness changes many of Lina's friends and many of the townspeople. She discovers that her friend Lizzie has begun to accept things from Looper, who is stealing things from the storerooms. Why does Lina turn down the gifts that Lizzie offers her? Do you think that she was right to do so?
5. The city of Ember was built when people were worried that the human race might not survive. Do you think this was a good plan?
6. The mayor is the most corrupt character in the novel. He squelches the thirst for knowledge and limits freedom, yet the majority of the townspeople just accept his behavior. Why do you think they act this way? What other actions might they have taken?
7. People react in various ways when they feel threatened. How do the people of Ember react to danger? Have you seen people reacting to danger in these ways? How are Poppy's actions important to the plot?
8. At the end of the novel, Lina, Doon, and Poppy have discovered a sunlit earth. What do you think will become of them in the sequel? Do you think that there are other people on the surface?