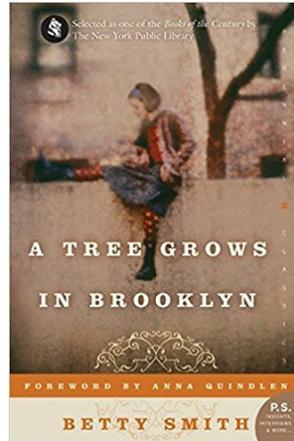


Pre-AICE English Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Teacher: Mr. Cioffoletti

Due: First Day of Class



Text: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

Author: Betty Smith

From the moment she entered the world, Francie needed to be made of stern stuff, for the often harsh life of Williamsburg demanded fortitude, precocity, and strength of spirit. Often scorned by neighbors for her family's erratic and eccentric behavior--such as her father Johnny's taste for alcohol and Aunt Sissy's habit of marrying serially without the formality of divorce--no one, least of all Francie, could say that the Nolans' life lacked drama. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the Nolans' daily experiences are tenderly threaded with family connectedness and raw with honesty. Betty Smith has, in the pages of A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, captured the joys of humble Williamsburg life--from "junk day" on Saturdays, when the children of Francie's neighborhood traded their weekly take for pennies, to the special excitement of holidays, bringing cause for celebration and revelry. Betty Smith has artfully caught this sense of exciting life in a novel of childhood, replete with incredibly rich moments of universal experiences--a truly remarkable achievement for any writer.

READING STRATEGY:

-The key to completing a longer novel is to work steadily. The recommended pace for this novel is reading two or three chapters a day. This will keep the story “fresh” in your mind and ensure that you complete the reading before the first day of school.

-If you have any questions about this summer assignment, please do not wait until Open House in August to ask them. Contact me at Ericaci@LeeSchools.net. Over the summer, I will respond to all emails within 48 hours. You can also get in touch with me via the Google Classroom code down below.

PART I:

-Please borrow, beg for, or buy a copy of **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**.

-Sign up for the Pre-AICE English Literature Google Classroom. Class code is **rikwit0**. Copies of all assignments can be found there.

PART II:

-Read **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn**.

-Be sure to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary list at the end of these directions to help you.

-As you read, highlight (in different colors) passages that deal with the following themes:

- Coming of Age
- Loss of Innocence
- The American Dream

-In addition, make note of the strengths of foibles of the characters in the main character Francie’s life, particular members of the Nolan family.

PART III:

-On a sheet of college-ruled paper, please hand write the answers to the following questions. **Typed responses will NOT be accepted.** Each answer should be between **1 - 2 complete sentences**.

Chapter 1:

1. What is the setting of the story?
2. How was Saturday a wonderful day?
3. How old are Neelie and Francie?
4. What is Francie's favorite game? What might that foreshadow about her character?
5. Who is Brooklyn's team?

Chapter 2:

6. What is *ironic* about the librarian?
7. Where did Francie go to read? Briefly describe this "place."
8. What is the difference between Flossie and Aunt Sissy?

Chapter 3:

9. Describe Johnny Nolan.
10. Why does Johnny Nolan say he drinks?

Chapter 4:

11. Name and describe who lives in the Gaddis house.
12. What feelings does Francie have when she looks in Flossie's closet?

Chapter 5:

13. Describe Aunt Sissy.
14. Name items that appear on the Nolan "menu."

Chapter 6:

15. Detail the Nolan's Saturday afternoon and evening routine.

Chapter 7:

16. This chapter gives a background about "the Rommely women." Describe each one.

- a) Mary
- b) Sissy
- c) Eliza
- d) Evy
- e) Katie

17. What *metaphor* is used to describe the Rommely women?

Chapter 8:

18. The beginning of the chapter *juxtaposes* the Rommely women with the Nolan men (and their mother as well). Describe the following...

- a) Ruthie
- b) Mickey
- c) Georgie
- d) Frankie
- e) Johnny

Chapter 9:

- 19. What job do Katie and Johnny share when they are first married?
- 20. What is *foreshadowed* during Francie's birth?
- 21. What advice does Mary Rommely give Katie about childbearing?

Chapter 10:

- 22. What prevents Katie from nurturing her child?
- 23. What *analogy* does Katie make with Francie? (An analogy is a comparison of two things).

Chapter 11:

- 24. What do we learn about Johnny in this chapter?
- 25. What do we learn about Sissy in this chapter?

Chapter 12:

- 26. What *euphemism* does Katie use to describe Johnny's drunken binges? (Remember from last year that this is when a mild expression is substituted for one considered to be too harsh).
- 27. As they leave, what *analogy* does Katie make about their empty apartment?

Chapter 13:

- 28. What neighborhoods does Lorimer Street border?
- 29. Describe a musical image from this chapter. (There are several.)
- 30. What common threads do all the images have?

Chapter 14:

- 31. Summarize what provokes the Nolan's move?
- 32. What prophecy does Johnny make?

Chapter 15:

- 33. How would you describe the *tone* in this chapter? Cite text evidence as to how you reached this conclusion.

Chapter 16:

34. What is the *author's purpose* of this chapter? (What does the author need us to know?)

Chapter 17:

35. What is the “deal” with the piano lessons?

Chapter 18:

36. Describe the vaccination “ordeal.”

Chapter 19:

37. What *alliteration* does Smith use to describe the shopkeeper’s kids?

38. How does Sissy “solve” the discrimination issue?

Chapter 20:

39. What prophylactic procedure does Katie practice?

Chapter 21:

40. Cite the *metaphor* about the “two visiting teachers.”

Chapter 22:

41. Describe Francie’s “magic hour.”

Chapter 23:

42. What is Francie’s dream?

Chapter 24:

43. What activities occur before, during and after election?

Chapter 25:

44. What lessons does Johnny impart on Bushchurch Avenue?

Chapter 26:

45. What “lessons” does Francie learn about the pie?

Chapter 27:

46. What is the irony of Francie’s “winning the doll?”

Chapter 28:

47. What transition does Francie experience in this chapter?

Chapter 29:

48. Describe “the notion” that Johnny got.

Chapter 30:

49. Describe Joanna. How do the neighbors treat her?

Chapter 31:

50. Explain the “two very important things” that happened “the year Francie was thirteen.”

Chapter 32:

51. Describe the Nolan’s financial situation and how the family reacts.

52. What does Mama do when she discovers Francie’s diary?

Chapter 33:

53. How does Katie answer the question “Where do we come from?”

54. Describe what happened “one afternoon, [when] Katie was cleaning the halls.”

Chapter 34:

55. Fully explain how Sissy “is going to get a baby.”

Chapter 35:

56. Describe what is happening with Johnny and how each family member responds.

Chapter 36:

57. How does Katie break the news to the children that Johnny has died?

Chapter 37:

58. What did Francie and Neeley talk about on their walk that night?

Chapter 38:

59. What suggestion does the insurance collector make which will help the Nolan’s financial situation?

Chapter 39:

60. What are Francie’s fears regarding Katie’s feelings toward her?

61. What conclusion does Francie draw at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 40:

62. During labor, what does Katie apologize to Francie for?

63. Why was Francie sent out?

Chapter 41:

N/A

Chapter 42:

64. What regrets does Katie have about her life and her kids?

Chapter 43:

65. Compare Francie’s job with Neeley’s.

Chapter 44:

66. In your own words, summarize this chapter.

Chapter 45:

67. Describe Francie's religious feelings.

Chapter 46:

68. What do Francie and Neeley talk about on the roof?

Chapter 47:

69. What was "all the neighborhood could think or talk about"?

Chapter 48:

70. What is the six-inch headline on April 6, 1917?

71. As a result "of this headline," what transpires at Francie's work?

Chapter 49:

72. What classes does Francie take?

Chapters 50 - 54:

N/A

Chapter 55:

73. What "advice" had Grandma Mary Rommely given to Francie?

74. Explain the "understanding" that Francie and Ben have?

Chapter 56:

75. Detail Francie's last actions and their significance:

- a. Moving out on Monday
- b. Mama's cleaning
- c. Cheap Charlie
- d. Taking Laurie to the park
- e. "She closed the window"

VOCABULARY (In order of appearance):

- 1) Serene – clear and free of storms or unpleasant change
- 2) Sombre – so shaded as to be dark and gloomy
- 3) Ingratating – capable of winning favor
- 4) Gallant – showy in dress or bearing
- 5) Décolleté – having a low-cut neckline
- 6) Synopsized – to make a synopsis of
- 7) Begetting – producing, as an effect or outgrowth

- 8) Leonine – resembling a lion
- 9) Conscripted – to enroll into service by compulsion
- 10) Limpid – clear and simple in style
- 11) Enigma – an obscure speech or writing
- 12) Beguiling – to lead by deception
- 13) Keened – intellectually alert
- 14) Bucolic – of or relating to shepherds or herdsmen
- 15) Caul – large, fatty omentum covering the intestines
- 16) Lassitude – condition of weariness or debility
- 17) Prodigiously – being an omen
- 18) Recalcitrant – defiant of authority or restraint
- 19) Macabre – compromising or including a personalized representation of death
- 20) Subterfuge – deception by artifice in order to conceal, escape or evade
- 21) Raucous – disagreeably harsh or strident
- 22) Poignancy – being pungently persuasive
- 23) Timorously – of a timid disposition
- 24) Banal – lacking originality, freshness or novelty
- 25) Sachems – North American Indian chief
- 26) Surreptitiously – done, made, or acquired by stealth
- 27) derisive – expressing or causing derision
- 28) Eulogized – speaking or writing in high praise of
- 29) Plutocrats – controlling class of the wealthy
- 30) Pathological – altered or caused by disease
- 31) Pogroms – organized massacre of helpless people
- 32) Interlocutor - one who takes part in dialogue or conversation
- 33) Prosaic – characteristic of prose as distinguished from poetry
- 34) Sordid – marked by baseness or grossness
- 35) Supplicating – to ask earnestly and humbly of
- 36) Mollified – soothing in temper and disposition
- 37) Simian – resembling monkeys or apes
- 38) Cacophony – harshness in the sound of words or phrases