



## The Catholic High School of Baltimore Summer Reading List

**Teacher's Name:** Sharon Johnston

**School Year:** 2011-2012      **Grade Level:** 10

**Course No.:** 123      **Course Name:** American Literature/Composition

**Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP1/CP2/CPA):** CP2

### **Reading:**

*The House of Dies Drear* by Virginia Hamilton

### **Assignment:**

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. This work is due the first week back to school. This will count as one test grade toward your first quarter American Literature grade.

### **Chapters 1-3**

1. Mr. Small is a history professor who desperately wants to live in the house of Dies Drear. Upon arriving at the house what are the reactions of his family? Describe their reactions using quotes and examples from the text.
2. Explain specifically how the dream passage means each of the following:
  - a. A warning -
  - b. Strangeness -
  - c. Flight -

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3. In one sentence, tell what Thomas most regrets leaving behind.
4. What is the "something funny" about the house that Mrs. Small comments upon?
5. Define **sinister**. How do the weather, the dream and the location of the house support the use of this word? Write 4 sentences. Quote directly from the chapter if you can.
6. What special ability, in general, does Thomas think the twins have?
7. Explain the situation in which we find Thomas and his family.
8. Explain the historical importance of the house in Ohio.
9. List below the facts you have read about Dies Drear.
10. List below 3 character traits (not physical traits) of Thomas. For each, give a specific quotation or action from Chapters 1-2 to illustrate the trait.
11. What is strange about Mr. Pluto?
12. What conflicts can you find in Chapters 1-2 (remember: \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_)
13. List below specific sentences, clauses, and phrases which create an eerie or sinister atmosphere for the setting (inside & outside of the house).
14. What makes Thomas angry at Mr. Pluto?
15. What evidence do we have that Mr. Pluto is thoughtful?
16. What evidence do we have that Mr. Pluto is mean-spirited?
17. What character trait of Thomas is revealed in the incident with the button on the door? Write 2-3 good sentences telling specifically **what trait** and **how it is illustrated**.

## Chapters 4-11

1. The girl who Thomas meets is named:
2. The boy who Thomas meets is named:
3. What color horse is the girl riding?
4. What color is the girl wearing?
5. T or F The girl knows Pluto.
6. T or F Thomas is afraid in the tunnel.
7. What does Thomas hear in the tunnel?
8. What does Thomas lose in the tunnel?

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9. What does Mr. Small do after he hears Thomas's story about the tunnel adventure?
10. What does Thomas want to tell his father, but cannot tell him?
11. What does Thomas imagine Pluto planted in the window boxes?
12. Explain why Thomas follows the sound in the woods.
13. What does Thomas hear in the woods?
14. To what does Thomas compare himself as he moves through the woods?
15. Name two ways in which Thomas's dream and his real experience in the woods are similar.
16. Name two things that are odd about Mr. Pluto, when he appears in the kitchen.
17. What is odd about Mr. Small's reaction to Pluto?
18. What is odd about the way Pluto leaves the kitchen?

## **Chapters 12-19**

1. What does Thomas see in the town that makes him think, "You could live here forever"?
  2. What has happened to make Mrs. Small upset upon entering the kitchen?
  3. Who, specifically, are the "bad guys" in this novel?
  4. Name two ways in which Thomas and his father are alike.
  5. What is the thing Thomas wants to learn from Mayhew?
  6. Why won't Pluto go to the doctor?
  7. Who dusts the glass?
9. What part does each of the following play in the "play":
- Thomas -
- Mayhew-
- Pesty-

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Pluto-

Mrs. Small-

10. What is in the old books (ledgers) in the cavern?
11. Why did Pluto and Mayhew trick the Smalls with stage magic?
12. Explain why Pluto believes the treasure is his legacy?
13. Explain what Mr. Small decided to do about the treasure.
14. Explain why Mayhew left the cave, and why he returned.
15. In what 2 ways did Carr help Mayhew?
16. For what reason is Mayhew angry with his father?
  
18. Did Macky (Mac) Darrow and his brothers mess up the kitchen? If not, who did?
19. What is Mayhew's job in the "real world?"
20. How many days have passed since the first page of the novel (in the "present" of the novel)?

What is the climax of the novel? Explain your answer