

# 8th Grade Summer Reading

## Required Book: *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

### Assignment:

- You must answer 15 of the 18 discussion questions found at the end of the novel (pg.183). I am including the questions on the following pages as well. (Number each of your responses.)
- You may write your responses by hand on a piece of looseleaf, or preferably, you may type your answers. If you choose to write by hand, you must use blue or black pen. Use your neatest handwriting or printing. **(No crossouts!!)**
- Make sure to answer **all parts** of each question.
- Use **complete sentences** and be thorough and descriptive. The more you can tell me, the better!!
- Use correct spelling, punctuation, and capitalization. Proofread before you turn in your work.

### Extra Credit:

If you read one of the following books and create a google slide show using the directions attached, you will receive 10 extra credit points to be used on any reading assignment in the first trimester.

Any book by Jason Reynolds (others in this series include: *Patina*, *Sunny*, and *Lu* - but he has many other novels as well!)

*Jefferson's Sons* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor

*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick

*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

*Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita Williams-Garcia

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds

# *Ghost*

## By Jason Reynolds

### Discussion Questions (You must answer 15 out of 18)

1. The cover of *Ghost* includes this question: Running *for* his life, or *from* it? Explain the role that running plays in Ghost's life. Why does he start running? How does his reason for running change?
2. What memory is triggered about Ghost's dad from the sunflower seeds? How does this flashback help develop Ghost's character? What other things bring back memories of his father? Are any of his memories positive?
3. Initially, what sport is Ghost interested in playing? Why isn't he interested in track? What do you think makes him decide to race Lu?
4. Consider the connotations of the word defender. What does it mean to be a defender? Many of the characters in the novel play the role of defenders. Choose a character and explore the ways that they embody the idea of being a defender. Why is this an appropriate name for Coach Brody's track team?
5. How did Castle get his nickname? Why do you think he likes the name Ghost better than his given name? Which name do you think suits him best: Ghost or Castle?
6. How does Coach Brody convince Ghost to join the Defenders? How does he convince Ghost's mom? How hard is it to balance athletics and academics?
7. Ghost has to deal with bullying at school. Why do you think Brad Simmons picks on Ghost? How does Ghost respond? Instead of fighting, how could Ghost have retaliated?

8. What do you think Ghost means when he says, “I got a lot of scream inside”?
9. What do you think Ghost means when he tells Coach, “ I guess the only other person I’m scared of, maybe... is me”? How does Coach respond? Do you think Ghost is hard on himself?
10. Closely read the last few pages of Chapter 6, making sure to pay attention to the author’s use of figurative language. How does Ghost’s flashback help develop his character and internal conflict?
11. Think about the consequences Ghost faces as a result of his decision to steal a pair of running shoes. Do you think that the way that Coach punishes him is fair? What would the consequences have been if Ghost had been stopped by the police instead? What would the consequences have been if his mother had discovered the theft? What would have happened if Ghost had never been caught? Why might it have been better for him to get caught?
12. In addition to training the Defenders to be competitive runners, Coach also teaches them to work together as a team, helping them learn to be responsible and empathetic. What tactics does he use to teach these life lessons?
13. Consider the way that the author contrasts Glass Manor with Sunny’s neighborhood in Chapter 7. How does this contrast help you understand Ghost?
14. Chapter 8 ends with Ghost saying, “And it felt good to feel like one of the teammates. Like I was there-really, really there-as me, but without as much scream inside.” Why are teams important? Have you ever been a part of a team? If so, how did your experience compare to Ghosts’ experience?

15. What leads to Ghost's decision to steal a pair of running shoes? Why does he feel like stealing is his only option? What are the short and long-term consequences of his decision? What would you have done if you were in his position? What could Ghost have done instead? What lesson does he learn as a result?
  
16. At the newbie dinner, what secrets do Patty, Lu, Sunny, and Ghost reveal about themselves? How does the dinner impact their relationships with one another? Why is trust so important in relationships? How can you build trust with others?
  
17. Gradually, Coach reveals things about his own past to Ghost. What does Ghost find out about Coach's childhood and relationships with his father? How do these revelations develop Ghost and Coach's bond?
  
18. *Ghost* ends with a cliffhanger. What do you think the outcome of the race will be? This is the first book in the Track series: what conflicts do you think Ghost is going to face in the next book?

## Extra Credit - Google SlideShow

Create a google slideshow. You will share your slideshow with me during the first week of school.

Slides 2-6 should have headings

Proofread carefully - spelling, capitalization, and punctuation matter!!

**Slide 1** - include the title, author, and copyright date of your book. Make sure that your name is also on this slide!

**Slide 2 - Setting** - describe when and where the story takes place

**Slide 3 - Characters** - list and describe each of the main characters in your story. Tell something about each character's personality.

**Slide 4 - Plot Summary** - write a summary of the book covering important events from the beginning, middle, and end. The summary should be no less than 5 sentences.

**Slide 5 - Conflict/ Resolution** - What problem did the main character in the book face? How did the story end? Was the problem overcome?

**Slide 6 - Review/Opinion** - tell whether you liked this book and why or why not. Be specific about what you did or did not like. To whom would you recommend this book?