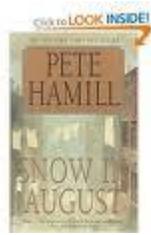


Snow in August and *Oedipus Rex* Summer Reading Assignment
10th Grade Honors English



Part I Identify each item and **explain why** each is important in the novel

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sticky the dog | 6. Mr. G |
| 2. “I’m With Jackie” | 7. Unbeatable Joe’s |
| 3. “...the mark of the squealer...” | 8. Leah Yaretzky |
| 4. Ebbets Field | 9. red Sapolin #3 |
| 5. Golem | 10. Brother Thaddeus |

Part II Cite passages from the novel / play in your responses **using MLA format.**

1. List and explain two roles that Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers play in the novel.
2. What is significant early in the novel about Michael Devlin’s love of comic books and Captain Marvel? How does his hero worship evolve?
3. What role does the popular music of 1947 (Bing Crosby, Ziggy Elfman) play in the novel?
4. Storytelling and mythology are important parts of the novel. List and explain how Jewish, American and Irish storytelling/mythology are significant.
5. Explain the title of the novel, Snow in August.
6. Dealing with loss is a significant part of the novel. In what ways does Michael deal with the death of his father? How does Rabbi Hirsch deal with the death of his wife?
7. How did Oedipus get his name?
8. Explain the riddle of the Sphinx. What role did it have in the play?
9. Who is Tiresias? Why does he refuse to help Oedipus?
10. What is dramatic irony? Cite two examples from “Oedipus Rex”.
11. Why does Oedipus blind himself at the end of the play?

Part III Dialogue

Both Oedipus Rex and Rabbi Hirsch are characters who have suffered greatly in the course of their stories. Create a **three to five page** dialogue where these characters seek one another out and speak to each other about love, loss and life. Invent the setting, use actual dialogue and passages from the play and the novel in your dialogue, and remain faithful to the characterization of each man in your dialogue. **Be sure to cite your passages using MLA format.**