

The Battle of Jericho

Study Guide

The following questions could be used for small group discussions, whole class discussions, or short answer written questions.	Common Core Standard(s)
1. The Battle of Jericho begins with a chapter near the end of the book as an introduction. How does this text structure affect the reader's response?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.5
2. Based on the introduction, what predictions can the reader make about Jericho and the situation he seems to have gotten himself into? Support your answer with specific evidence from the text. Before reading all that proceeded that night and understanding why Jericho was at that place in his life, what was your opinion of his decision? What in the text supports your argument?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.4 RL.6-12.5
3. As you first meet Jericho, how is he like many young people today? How is he different? What seem to be his biggest insecurities? His greatest strengths? Use specific details from the text to support your comparison.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
4. Describe the relationship between the characters Josh and Jericho. Why are they so close? How are they alike and how are they different? Use specific details from the text to support your comparison.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
5. Use textual evidence to determine what Douglass High School is like. Look for explicit and implicit details that describe the building, the teachers, the students, the administration, and the feel of the school. What specific language does Draper use to convey the feel of the school? How does it compare to your school and/or other schools in your community?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.4 W.6-12.2
6. Jericho's great skill and source of pleasure is his trumpet playing. Trace the relationship between Jericho and his trumpet and how his love for music influences his decisions throughout the book citing specific evidence from the text.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.4
7. How and why is music important in the lives of many young people? Cite details from the text that support your argument.	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1
8. Jericho's parents are divorced, but it is clear that he is well loved. How do you think the divorce affected some of the decisions Jericho made in the story? Describe his relationship with Geneva, his father, his mother, and his two stepbrothers. How does the strength of his family make a difference in his life? Use specific details from the text, both explicit and implicit, to support your answer.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
9. Even though Jericho is fairly intelligent and mature, he is easily entangled in the desire to be accepted by the club. Explain how this occurs using details from the text, and discuss whether you think Jericho's mistakes are realistic.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
10. Jericho's teachers seem to have his best interests at heart. Describe his relationship with Mr. Culligan, Mr. Boston, and Mr. Tambori, the music teacher, as well as the custodian and the principal with specific support from the text. How does each of these characters influence his decisions?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
11. Describe the relationship between the friends in the book, backing up your	RL.6-12.3

answer with specific details from the text. Is friendship enough when situations become monumental and overwhelming to young people? Explain.	W.6-12.1
12. Describe each of the nights of the initiation week. How could events have turned out differently? What would you have done in the same situation?	RL.6-12.4 RL.6-12.5
13. What were your predictions about Kofi and his bad heart? What were your predictions about Dana and her success as a pledge? What parts of the text structure led you to these predictions?	RL.6-12.3 RL.6-12.5 W.6-12.1
14. Discuss the character of Eddie and his complicated feelings for Dana. Does he have any redeeming qualities, or is he purely a negative character? What might have made Eddie the person he is? What alternate endings might you create for Eddie at the end of the book?	RL.6-12.3
15. Explain the title of the novel using evidence from the text. Why does the title have more than one possible interpretation? Discuss the various "battles" within the story.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2
16. Discuss the girls in the story. How do their personalities complement each other? How is each one unique? Support your answer with specific details from the text. Explain why Dana is such a memorable character. What was your reaction to Arielle based on textual choices made by the author?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
17. Many people have asked the author why Josh was allowed to die at the end of the novel. What impact does this textual choice have on the reader's interpretation of the novel? What would have been the effect on the novel if Josh had lived?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.5
18. Why is tragedy often more memorable and more powerful than happiness in a novel? Use specific details from this text and others to support your answer.	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1
19. Families often have difficulties and young people must cope with the situations that arise. Discuss the relationships between the following characters and their families using both explicit and implicit details found in the text: Kofi, November, Eddie, Eric, and Jericho. Discuss the strengths of their various families.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
20. How does peer pressure affect the decisions that were made by the characters in the story? What lessons might the pledges have learned from Eric Bell? Support your answer with details from the text.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
21. Many young people live with unbelievable amounts of pressure from their peers-the way they dress, act, talk, and respond to the world around them is often controlled by the larger group. Discuss how realistic the lives of Jericho and the others are portrayed and how they can become a voice for young readers who are afraid to speak out.	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1
22. What character seems least susceptible to peer pressure? Why? Based on details in the text, do you think this character is successful as a teenager in spite of this?	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1
23. The club called the Warriors of Distinction brings about a number of plot developments. Explain how the club can be interpreted as a "character" that affects the rest of the characters and events in the book.	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3
24. Did the Warriors of Distinction have any positive effects in the story? Is it acceptable to do something bad (such as steal a Christmas ornament) if it is	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3

for a good purpose (such as to give to orphans)? Support your argument with specific details from the text.	
25. Do you think the club should be allowed to continue? Explain why or why not using evidence from the text.	RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1
The following questions are designed to be individual writing projects or small group writing projects depending upon the needs of your classroom.	Common Core Standard(s)
<p>Narrative</p> <p>A. Visualize the next ten years for Jericho, Dana, November, and Kofi. How will their lives be changed by the events of that year in high school? Create a scene in which they meet at a ten-year reunion. Write it in a style that mimics Draper’s tone and text structure in the novel. What will have happened to them and why?</p> <p>B. "Eric waved and wheeled away. Jericho stood watching him for a moment or two, thinking not of gifts, but of blessings-and guilt." Write a narrative paper from the point of view of Eric. Tell what kind of day he might have. Take any aspect of Eric's life and develop it. Write it in a style that mimics Draper’s tone and text structure in the novel.</p>	RL.6-12.5 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4
<p>Newspaper Article</p> <p>You are a reporter at one of the following scenes. Write the story for your newspaper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eddy's trial ○ for the accident which caused Josh's death ○ for his assaults on Dana ○ The trial for the Warriors of Distinction ○ The school board meeting for the month after the tragedy ○ The final meeting of the Warriors of Distinction 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4
<p>Letters</p> <p>A. Teachers play an important role in the lives of the students in this book-some positively, and others negatively. Think about a teacher who has made an impact on your life. Write a letter to that teacher telling him or her about the impact they made on you.</p> <p>B. Write a letter to one of the characters in the book explaining your feelings about the events in the story. What advice would you give November, Kofi, or Josh's parents? What would you say to Jericho?</p> <p>C. Imagine it is three weeks after the end of the novel. Write a letter or create a conversation between the following characters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jericho to Arielle ○ Arielle to Jericho ○ Dana to Kofi ○ Mr. Tambori to Jericho ○ Mr. Culligan to Josh's parents ○ Josh's parents to Mr. Culligan ○ Eric Bell to Jericho 	RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4
Point of View Paper	RL.6-12.6

<p>In diary form, write about the life of Eric Bell over the course of several months from Eric's point of view. Include details about how he manages to cope as a teenager in a wheelchair.</p>	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.9</p>
<p>Descriptive Paper Draper uses a lot of vivid, descriptive writing in her novels. Take this example: "Jericho took Zora out of the trumpet case then and slowly began to play. The tones, sweet and mellow, floated above the young people in the room. He began with soft, clear notes, bright like jewels, followed by a series of trills that swelled with power. He played the loss of yesterday and tomorrow, of friendship and love. He remembered childhood laughter as he played, and teenage troubles as well. One series of notes, high and delicate, sang of a sweet moonlight kiss gone sour; another line of music rippled with regret over opportunities forever lost." Use Draper's paragraph as a model to write a descriptive paper about something you love to do that uses sensory imagery. Use vivid verbs and powerful adjectives and adverbs as you write. Use as many of the senses as you can (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste).</p>	<p>RL.6-12.5 W.6-12.3 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Research Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Investigate the practice of hazing in high schools and colleges including the current laws and punishments. Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding hazing. How have students been getting involved to stop the problem of hazing? Be sure to cite your sources used. B. Examine peer pressure. How can teenagers effectively cope with peer pressure? Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding peer pressure to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. C. Consider a career as a teacher. Find out how much college education is needed, where you could go to college, how many years of study it takes, and what is required to become a teacher or counselor, or principal. Present your findings in an essay, poster, PowerPoint or other approved format. Be sure to cite your sources used. D. Write a paper that investigates the effects of divorce on young people. You might discuss custody, adjustment, or financial situations. Show the results of the effects of divorce on school, personal, and social situations. You may choose to show both positive and negative results. Find at least 3-4 current, relevant, authoritative, accurate, and credible sources that talk about the issues surrounding divorce to help support your argument. Be sure to cite your sources used. 	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.2 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.7 W.6-12.8 W.6-12.9 RI.6-12.1 RI.6-12.2 RI.6-12.4 RI.6-12.8</p>
<p>Persuasive Paper "I have another question," Dana continued. Jericho knew what was coming. He tensed. "Why are there no girls in this club? I'd like to be considered for membership, and I want to know why I wasn't asked to join." Write a persuasive paper that argues the following point: "It is acceptable for school clubs to allow only one particular group of people as members." Whether you agree or disagree, your paper should address only one side of the issue.</p>	<p>W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>

<p>Expository Essay</p> <p>"Jericho wondered how he could ever be bonded as close to the boys in this room as he already was to Joshua." Explain how "the Bonding of the Brotherhood" as described by the Warriors, compares to the bonding of friends and family. Use examples from the book to support your statements.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Character Sketch</p> <p>A. Write a character sketch of Josh-what made him unique-his personality, his charm, his love of life. Use specifics from the book to illustrate your points.</p> <p>B. Trace the story of one of the following characters: Arielle, Eddie, November, Kofi, Dana. Imagine you are a biographer doing a story on one of their lives. Write everything you know, as well as whatever you can infer about the character in order to write your biography.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.3 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4</p>
<p>Poetry</p> <p>Write a poem about one of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Battle Within ○ Broken Heart ○ Forever Friends ○ The Joy of Music ○ Death of a Friend ○ A Moment of Silence 	<p>RL.6-12.4 W.6-12.3</p>
<p>Literary Analysis</p> <p>Read the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost and consider the message of the poem in comparison to the novel in light of the issues raised about peer pressure in the novel. Use what you have learned reading <i>The Battle of Jericho</i> and "The Road Not Taken" to write an essay that provides an analysis of what you think the authors are saying about choices and individuality. Develop your essay by providing textual evidence from both texts. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.</p>	<p>RL.6-12.1 RL.6-12.2 RL.6-12.4 RL.6-12.5 RL.6-12.7 W.6-12.1 W.6-12.4 W.6-12.9</p>