

**Incarnation Summer, 2018, Reading assignment for incoming
8th-grade students
Due: First Day of School, August, 2018**

Task: Purchase a PAPERBACK copy of the book titled, *Chains*, by Laurie Halse Anderson. NO E-BOOKS.

(The book may be purchased anywhere, including through www.amazon.com or www.abebooks.com Current cost is under \$4, plus shipping if applicable.)

While and after you read the book, complete Assignments 1, 2 and 3 below.

Assignment 1: Reading and Annotation of the Novel

1. Highlight vocabulary words or concepts unknown to you as you read.
2. Make several marginal notes in each chapter. (e.g. “Is this true?” or “Poor Isabel!” or “Lady Seymour is needlessly cruel.”)
3. Books will be graded on the **FIRST** day of school based on quality of annotations.

Assignment 2: Five-paragraph Essay about the Novel *Chains*

--To be completed under guidance of teacher AFTER the school year starts

1. Title and author must be mentioned in your opening sentence.
2. Prompt: In what ways do you judge the plot of *Chains* to be realistic in relation to the characters, plot and historical accuracy? In what ways do you judge it unrealistic?
3. The essay must begin with a topic paragraph which includes your clear statement of what you will be examining about the realism of the novel.
4. Your three body paragraphs must develop your topic with QUOTED examples from the book followed by page number of the quotation in parentheses.
5. Your closing paragraph must feature your conclusions about how REALISTIC (use this word) you judge the novel to be and how its realism might have been improved.

Assignment 3: Creative Response; due FIRST day of school; pick ONE:

Compose lyrics to a song Isabel could have written. Put the lyric to music that you already know, or compose your own tune. Recite or sing it. (3 verses or more)

Make up a short story in which Isabel and her family are reunited. Are they slaves or free in your story? Read it to the class. (two pages or longer)

Write a two-character play featuring Isabel and her sister or Isabel and Corzan. Perform it for the class with a classmate. (two pages or longer)