

Summer 2018 Reading:
Ben Hur



“The happiness of love is in action; its test is what one is willing to do for others” (Wallace).

Directions: Read Lew Wallace’s *Ben Hur* and respond to one of the essay topics below. Your essay should be approximately 2 ½-3 pages in length (MLA). *Remember:* do not summarize the book; rather, analyze and evaluate themes, worldviews, moral lessons, political statements, etc. Your essay should include at least two outside sources. Rely heavily upon the text and use it to back up your statements. In-text citations and a Works Cited page are required. Avoid writing in first or second person point of view (no I, we, us, our, me, my, you, your). Your thesis should make a clear statement, be debatable, and preview your main points.

Please also complete the form below to verify your completion of the reading.

Due date: Friday, August 17th 2018

Essay topics (Choose one of the themes or topics from the list below):

- 1. Themes (Choose one):** human justice versus God’s justice; power of love; betrayal and revenge; forgiveness and redemption
2. Trace the change in Judah Ben-Hur’s views about Christ. Include an analysis of what causes the change.
3. What is the role of the setting in the novel? Does the setting play a more positive or negative role?
4. How are Jews depicted in the novel? During a time when anti-Semitism was common, are Jews harshly characterized, or do they receive a more gentle portrayal?

Choose either one of the themes in question 1 or topics (#2, 3, or 4), and write a literary analysis revealing how Wallace utilizes that theme or treats the topic throughout the book to teach and to make important statements.

Student: I have read my summer reading assignment in its entirety.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent: I verify that my child completed his or her summer reading assignment in its entirety.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

