The Screwtape Letters Summer Reading Journal

Welcome to English IV! Your summer reading assignment has TWO PARTS. One is to answer reading questions about the novel. The other is to reflect on specific passages from the novel.

Complete the journal for all 31 letters of this novel. Please answer each questions with as much detail as you can. You should try to use lines from the book whenever possible.

If you need more space, use the back.

1. READING QUESTIONS: Answer each reading question with as much detail as possible. Reference specific quotes when possible.
2. QUOTE/REFLECTION: CHOOSING PASSAGES FROM THE TEXT:

Look for QUOTES that seem significant, powerful, thought provoking or puzzling. For example, look for these types of passages:

*Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices*

*Passages that remind you of your own life or something you’ve seen before*

*Structural shifts or turns in the plot*

*A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before*

*Examples of patterns: recurring images, ideas, colors, symbols or motifs.*

*Passages with confusing language or unfamiliar vocabulary*

*Events you find surprising or confusing*

*Passages that illustrate a particular character or setting*

**You can respond to or REFLECT ON the text in a variety of ways. The most important thing to remember is**

**that your observations should be specific and detailed.**

*Ask questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text/ How does this reflect in your own personal walk with God?*

*Give your personal reactions to the passage*

*Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author or character(s)*

*Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences*

*Write about what it makes you think or feel*

*Agree or disagree with a character or the author*

*Sample Sentence Starters:*

*I really don’t understand this because…*

*I really dislike/like this idea because…*

*I think the author is trying to say that…*

*This passage reminds me of a time in my life when…*

*If I were (name of character) at this point I would…*

*This part doesn’t make sense because…*

*This character reminds me of (name of person) because…*

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| *LETTER* | *READING QUESTION* | *QUOTE AND REFLECTION* | *PAGE #* |
| Letter 1 | To whom are these letters addressed?  What, according to Screwtape, is Wormwood’s best ally to keep the patient from the Church?  What “abominable advantage” does the Enemy have over demons? |  |  |
| Letter  2 | What will be Wormwood’s greatest ally now that the patient has become a Christian?  What falsity does Screwtape assert about the Enemy? |  |  |
| Letter 3 | What are the four methods Screwtape suggests to build up an annoyance between the patient and his mother? (Summarize each in one sentence). |  |  |
| Letter  4 | Whenever there is prayer, what is there danger of?  What situation are the demons trying to prevent in prayer? |  |  |
| Letter  5 | Why was Wormwood “delirious with joy”? |  |  |
| Letter  6 | What does Screwtape say barricades the human mind against the Enemy?  To whom does Screwtape advise turning the patient’s malice (even in war time)? |  |  |
| Letter 7 | How do most humans picture demons?  Why is this beneficial for demons? |  |  |
| Letter  8 | Explain the law of Undulation. |  |  |
| Letter  9 | What type of religion is as good for the demons as none as all?  Why is it amusing to them? |  |  |
| Letter  10 | What do “all mortals tend to turn into”? |  |  |
| Letter  11 | According to Screwtape, what are the causes of human laughter?  Which type of laughter does Screwtape advise to avoid? Why? |  |  |
| Letter  12 | What is the only thing that truly matters to the tempters?  What is the safest road to Hell? |  |  |
| Letter  13 | How has Screwtape’s tone changed from the last letter?  What is the characteristic of Pains and Pleasures and why should it be avoided? |  |  |
| Letter  14 | What lie does Screwtape want the patient to be convinced of regarding Humility? |  |  |
| Letter  15 | Does Screwtape want the patient focused on the Past, Present, or Future? Why? |  |  |
| Letter  16 | What is the congregational principle? |  |  |
| Letter  17 | To what kind of sensuality is the patient’s mother enslaved?  What is gluttony? |  |  |
| Letter  18 | Who is Slubgob?  What is this letter going to be about?  To what does Screwtape compare love with the intention of “fidelity, fertility, and good will”? |  |  |
| Letter  19 | Why does Screwtape say that his assertion that the Enemy loves the humans is an “impossibility”? |  |  |
| Letter  20 | Do you see any similarities between the description of women in the media during the World Wars and now? Differences? Explain. |  |  |
| Letter  21 | Over what else do men feel they have ownership? |  |  |
| Letter  22 | Why does the woman the patient loves make Screwtape vomit?    What does Screwtape prefer over music and silence? Why?  Who is Toadpipe? |  |  |
| Letter  23 | Since the tempters cannot remove spirituality from the patient’s life, what must they do? |  |  |
| Letter  24 | What will Wormwood have to use to sharpen the contrast between Christians and unbelievers? |  |  |
| Letter  25 | What is the greatest triumph with the Same Old Thing? Why? |  |  |
| Letter  26 | What is the greatest triumph with the Same Old Thing? Why? |  |  |
| Letter  27 | How has Wormwood largely failed?  What is “false spirituality”?  Why is it “always to be encouraged”? |  |  |
| Letter  28 | Why do the tempters want to avoid the patient’s death at this point?  What is the patient doing to defeat the tempters? |  |  |
| Letter  29 | With what is hatred best combined?  What is a greater sin than any of the sins that provoke it? |  |  |
| Letter  30 | Why has the patient’s behavior during the first raid been the worst possible? |  |  |
| Letter  31 | Describe the “love” between Screwtape and Wormwood.  Describe what the patient saw as he was snatched up. |  |  |