

English 11  
Summer Reading Assignment

In order to keep up your critical reading skills and prepare for both the NYS English Regents and the SAT, both of which you will take in your junior year, you are required to read *Plain Truth* by Jodi Piccoult and one book from a list of forty. This assignment must be brought to your English class in September on the first full day of classes and will count toward your first quarter grade.

Part I - *Plain Truth*

This book tells the story of a young Amish girl who denies that she gave birth to a child in spite of clear evidence that she did. In fact, she denies ever having been pregnant. After you have read this novel, please respond to the following questions:

1. Summarize the plot of this novel in about 3 or 4 paragraphs. What happened? Remember that all plots have an exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and a resolution. Try to cover all these points in your summary.
2. The setting of this novel (where it took place) is extremely important in this novel. Explain why.
3. What is the main conflict or problem in this book? Is the conflict resolved at the end? How?
4. The point of view in this book is very interesting. In some chapters, Katie speaks (first person); in other chapters, Ellie is the speaker (first person); and again, in others, a third person narrator tells what is happening.
  - A. What is the advantage of this kind of narration?
  - B. Which voice did you understand and enjoy most, Katie's, Ellie's or the third person narrator's? Why?
5. Write about any 3 characters in the book. Write at least two paragraphs for each one.

Who is the character?

Describe him or her; not just looks, personality and attitudes too. What are his or her most important characteristics?

Explain why this character is important in the story.
6. The romantic story of Ellie and Coop runs alongside the central story about Katie. Do you think this story of romance adds to or takes away from the impact of Katie's story? Explain your reasoning.
7. Explain the meaning of the book's title, *Plain Truth*.
8. This novel has been described as "a good read" by thousands who have read it. Do you agree? Explain.