

## RESERVOIR HIGH SCHOOL - INDEPENDENT READING ASSIGNMENT GUIDE

**DIRECTIONS:** Preview the tasks below before reading. There are 10 possible tasks. Complete 5 of the 10 tasks on a separate sheet of paper. To earn full credit, you must answer each of the 5 tasks completely.

- ACTIONS I CAN TAKE (OR STOP TAKING):** “Take time to listen after asking, ‘how are you?’” and “Postpone cell phone use while at service counters” are suggestions for an action to take to show civility and one to avoid to show civility. List three actions a person could take and three s/he could avoid in order to be a more civil person.
- IN AGREEMENT:** Highlight or note any parts of the book (quotes, etc) that make sense to you. These should be statements that you believe are good ideas, even if they’re common sense. Copy one of these statements onto your assignment paper, and, in 1-3 sentences, tell why you agree.
- NOT IN AGREEMENT:** Highlight or note any parts of the book (quotes, etc) that *don’t* make sense to you. Copy one of these statements onto your assignment paper and, in 1-3 sentences, tell why you *disagree*.
- REAL LIFE EXAMPLES:** On page 43, Dr. Forni gives a real life example of incivility in the grocery store. Choose one rule. Copy it to your assignment sheet and give an example from your own life of a time this rule was broken. Explain the results.
- RELATE IT TO ME:** In the Foreword, Dr. Forni notes, “The message here is not that I am a flawlessly civil person but that civility is a wonderfully effective tool to enhance the quality of our lives.” We cannot expect to be perfectly civil all the time, and it’s important to know what we’re already doing well. Choose one rule you think you follow very well already. Copy it to your assignment sheet and explain with examples how you do this and why.
- CONNECTIONS:** Choose one rule and find an artifact—a song lyric, a part of a speech, a YouTube Video, an advertisement, a quote from a hero, a Facebook group, a photograph, a parable, a saying from your grandmother, pretty much any piece of your life that could be a symbol for this rule. Copy or attach the artifact, or give the link, etc. On your assignment sheet, explain how the artifact symbolizes the rule.
- IMAGINATION:** Pick one rule, and imagine a world where everyone followed that rule, no matter what. In at least 3-5 sentences, describe some characteristics of that world that would result from everyone diligently following that rule.
- INTO ACTION:** Pick 2 rules to follow for 1 week. Record any positive differences you notice as a result of your civil actions on your assignment sheet. Then, explain what you observed—either you noticed positive differences or you did not—and what you think that means.
- SO SIMPLE:** Dr. Forni says, “A better quality of human interaction makes for a better life [...] It is that simple. It is really that simple. All we have to do is stop, think about it, and then act.” (184) Is it really that simple? Do you think you can follow the 25 rules? According to Dr. Forni, all that you have to do is take a minute to consider, “Do I really want to do this? Is anybody going to be hurt by this? Will I like having done this?” (22) Do you think you will become more civil? Whether yes or no, explain why.
- PREJUDGMENTS:** “We often let what we already know—or believe we know—of others alter our perception of what they are telling us at this very moment, in this unique set of circumstances,” says Dr. Forni (50-51). Have you ever felt that what someone already knew about you or thought they knew about you either kept them from listening to you or caused him/her to treat you differently in the present situation? If so, how did this affect you? In a paragraph, explain the situation, who the person was, what they knew or *thought they knew*, how she/he behaved toward you based on this knowledge, and what the effect was on you. Please leave out all names. How the person is related to you—uncle, teacher, etc—is all that is necessary.

### Some Suggested Reading Schedules

The book has 45 chapters, 2-9 pages long. No one chapter will take you more than about twenty minutes to read, and most chapters can be read in *less than 10 minutes!* ☺ If you have any trouble with the vocabulary, please take a look at the glossary on the school Web site at <http://www.hcpss.org/reservoir/civility.htm>  
Here are four reading plans to choose from:

A) For the person who wants to read as little as possible at once, who wants to understand the book and civility before we get back to school, or who likes to read before bed

<b>To be done by school:</b>	<b>To be done by 10/01/08:</b>	<b>Finish reading these pages:</b>
June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	June 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 3 through page 12
June 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	June 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	page 13 through page 20
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2008	June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 21 through page 30
June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	June 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 31 through page 40
June 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 41 through page 47
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 48 through page 53
July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 54 through page 63
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 64 through page 73
July 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	page 74 through page 80
July 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	July 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 81 through page 86
July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 87 through page 96
July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 97 through page 105
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008	August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 106 through page 115
July 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 116 through page 121
July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	page 122 through page 130
August 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2008	August 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 131 through page 135
August 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	August 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 136 through page 145
August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008	page 146 through page 151
August 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 152 through page 160
August 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 161 through page 164
August 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 165 through page 170
August 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	page 171 through page 174
August 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2008	September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 175 through page 178
August 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 179 through page 186

B) For the person who would rather have big chunks to read and fewer due dates

<b>To be done by school:</b>	<b>To be done by 10/01/08:</b>	<b>Finish reading these pages:</b>
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	July 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 3 through page 34
July 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	August 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 35 through page 96
August 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2008	page 97 through page 160
August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 161 through page 186

C) For the person who wants to spend at least ½ of summer break without thinking of school at all but wants to be done in time for the assignment due date

<b>By these dates</b>	<b>Finish reading these pages:</b>
July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2008	page 3 through page 34
August 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 35 through page 96
August 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 97 through page 160
September 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 161 through page 186

D) For the absolute procrastinator, the person who forgot about summer reading, or who didn't enroll at Reservoir until the 2008-09 school year and just found out about the independent reading assignment

<b>By these dates</b>	<b>Finish reading these pages:</b>
September 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2008	page 3 through page 34
September 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 35 through page 96
September 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 97 through page 160
September 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2008	page 161 through page 186