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**English IV Literary Criticism and English IV Dual Credit
Required Summer 2019 Reading Assignment
Due Date: Monday, August 19th (first full day of school)
Point Value: 60 points**

Book Title: Escape from Camp 14
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Congrats – you're a senior at PMSA! Here is the summer reading assignment for English IV students:

This year's book is *Escape from Camp 14* by Blaine Harden. North Korea is isolated and hungry, bankrupt and belligerent. It is also armed with nuclear weapons. Between 150,000 and 200,000 people are being held in its political prison camps, which have existed twice as long as Stalin's Soviet gulags and twelve times as long as the Nazi concentration camps. Very few born and raised in these camps have escaped. But Shin Dong-hyuk did.

In *Escape from Camp 14*, acclaimed journalist Blaine Harden tells the story of Shin Dong-hyuk and through the lens of Shin's life unlocks the secrets of the world's most repressive totalitarian state. Shin knew nothing of civilized existence--he saw his mother as a competitor for food, guards raised him to be a snitch, and he witnessed the execution of his own family. Through Harden's harrowing narrative of Shin's life and remarkable escape, he offers an unequalled inside account of one of the world's darkest nations and a riveting tale of endurance, courage, and survival.

The book is about 200 pages long--a easy, breezy summer read! The book is impressive, riveting, a page-tuner, and it will be hard to put down. In addition, North Korea is in the news with our nation's president Donald Trump planning a highly anticipated historic meeting with North Korea's communist dictator Kim Jong Un to discuss denuclearization. Please pay attention to the news on this.

#1: Bring Book First Day of School = 10 points

- Purchase the book, which is available at many bookstores and libraries. It can also be ordered on Amazon or bn.com. Bring it to class on the first day of school. You will be awarded 10 points for having the book.
- Read the book and TYPE the Harkness Table written prep, as directed, over the summer.

#2 Harkness Table Written Prep: 60 points: NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED
These are due the first day of class.

Expect a Harkness Table on this book as an assessment of your understanding shortly after your return to school. The written prep entails the following:

- a. One quote with page number
- b. comment (2-3 lines)
- c. question (the majority of which should begin with How or Why). Please avoid how would you feel if you...
- d. how you would answer the question

Include this from each of the 23 chapters, as well as the Foreword, Preface, Introduction, Epilogue, Afterword, and Appendix. Points off for not following the format *exactly*.

Here is an example:

Foreword

- 1a. "Trauma victims like him tend to struggle with the truth, especially in the linear narrative form that journalists, judges, and policy makers are best able to understand. The memories of trauma victims are often fragmented and out of sequence, and the stories they tell can be shields behind which they try to hide" (xiv).
- 1b. It sounds like he had post-traumatic stress disorder in which he had difficulty processing all he had gone through in a prison camp, then trying to reconcile all of that while living in a modern western country.
- 1c. How does Shin Dong-Hyuk represent the durability of the human spirit and its ability to survive the harshest conditions?
- 1d. He lived through perhaps one of the most traumatic experiences any human being could live through, was treated like an animal, perhaps even more cruelly because people love their dogs, and with the least amount of love, he still had enough esteem to look for a better life, to survive, and to become a spokesperson.

Preface

- 2a.
- 2b.
- 2c.
- 2d.

Introduction

- 3a.
- 3b.
- 3c.
- 3d.

#3: Question Instructions:

These will be assigned during the first two weeks of class as homework. We suggest you have them completed over the summer, but they will only be checked as homework assignments once we start discussing the book.

If you have them completed by the first day of class, you will have 60 EXTRA CREDIT POINTS.

Short Answer Questions with Textual Evidence

The short answer questions require a one- to two-sentence answer.

Support your answer with a quote from the text. Be sure to include a page number. This is called an in-text citation.

Preface

1. What was the teachable moment that Shin witnessed at four and then again at age fourteen?
2. What were the implications of the second event?
3. Shin says he would not admit for fifteen years that he was responsible for the deaths, but why did he think that he was responsible even at age fourteen?

Introduction

1. On January 2, 2005, when he was 23 years old, Shin "squirmed through an electric fence" to freedom. He comments he changed his name to a South Korean version because he had "to reinvent himself as a free man." What did that entail?
2. The current ruler of North Korea Kim Jong Eun is approximately the same age as Shin but the author says they "personify the antipodes of privilege and privation". On one account one lives "above the law" and one "lived below the law." Explain the contrast.
3. A telling sentence, "Love and mercy and family were words without meaning. God did not disappear or die. Shin had never heard of him." Explain the reasoning or implications of this sentence.
4. What are "concentration camp survival" stories? And how was Shin's different?
5. What are "irredeemables"?
6. What is the estimated number of deaths at the death camps?
7. Describe Shin's inability to look people in the eye.
8. What may subsequent generations ask this generation about its apathy?
9. Explain Shin's trust issues and account for them.
10. Why is fact checking impossible regarding Shin's story?

Chapter 1 The Boy Who Ate His Mother's Lunch

1. Shin comments about his mother that he "saw her as competition for survival". Explain his assessment.
2. Explain the concept of "a reward marriage" and the implication for Shin's parents.
3. What was Shin's relationship to his parents and his feelings toward them? What were the "the sins of the mothers and fathers? How was redemption achieved according to the guards?
4. What is "the eating problem" regarding North Korea?
5. Explain the irony concerning the US as the main donor and the most deionized by North Korea. What is the "Sunshine Policy"?

Chapter 2 School Days

1. What was Shin's relationship with his first teacher? His second one?
2. Why did Shin think about the beating and killing of a six-year old child for stealing food?
3. What view of North Korea and its history was Shin taught?

Chapter 3 The Upper Crust

1. Who were the Bowiwons and what did they do to Shin because of their belief in a caste system?
2. Describe the three classes of the caste system, and explain how members move into one class.
3. Why did the guards teach the prisoners to think of inmates as "dogs and pigs"? Explain the psychology behind the dehumanization of prisoners and relate it to other historical cases.
4. Explain the funneling of currency schemes carried out by North Korean elites. By contrast, how does the average elite family live?
5. Explain the hereditary succession of the Kim family.

Chapter 4 Mother Tries to Escape

1. Summarize Shin's first account of his mother's escape.
2. Why did Shin hide some things about the real event and in what way was this event in his life a burden he kept inside?
3. Discuss the implications of the question he was afraid people would ask, "Are you even human?"
4. Discuss forgiveness and guilt related to Shin, and the reasons he divulged that he had lied about hsi mother's death.

Chapter 5 Mother Tries to Escape Version Two

1. Summarize the second account Shin told of his mother's escape.
2. Explain the importance of rice in the North Korean culture.
3. Why did Shin feel anger, jealousy, and fear when he heard his brother discuss the plan?

4. How did Shin betray his mother and brother and what was the consequence?

Chapter 6 The Son of a B Won't Do

1. Why had Shin's family been imprisoned?
2. Describe what happened to Shin in his interrogation and torture.
3. How was Shin's confession confirmed?

Chapter 7 The Sun Shines Even on Mouse Holes

1. Describe Kim Jin Myung's nursing of Shin.
2. Besides introducing Shin to kindness, what did "Uncle" do for him long term through his stories? What did Shin feel for him?
3. Why had Shin never trusted anyone before and why did he trust "Uncle"?

Chapter 8 Avoiding Mother's Eyes

1. How did Shin know his father Shin Gyung Sub had been tortured in the underground prison?
2. What feelings did Shin have regarding his mother's and brother's execution?

Chapter 9 Reactionary SOB

1. What were the immediate results of his mother's execution for Shin?
2. Why did the students bully Shin even more?
3. Describe the factors leading to and his self-awareness particularly his loneliness, regret, and self-awareness.
4. Why did Shin have such a negative reaction to his father and even to the word?
5. Discuss the option of suicide in the prison for others and also for Shin.
6. Discuss the contrast between those who were born in the camp and those who were not.
7. Explain the sentence, "The new teacher did not seem to want Shin to die of malnutrition." Why did Shin think he would have died without his help?

Chapter 10 Working Man

1. At fifteen Shin worked on a hydroelectric dam, where he learned the guards value of life once again. Tell the results of the death of the eight workers.
2. Explain the role of propaganda in North Korea's nationalistic image.
3. Describe the ways Shin had seen prisoners die in prison and the telling detail he reveals related to finding bodies.
4. What was the happiest time of Shin's teen years and what did they allow him to regain?

Chapter 11 Napping on the Farm

1. When Shin worked on the pig farm, what was his focus and what did he forego thinking about?
2. Who are the "orphaned sparrows"?
3. Explain the dilemma for the US in its being the largest donor of food for North Korea, but North Korea's insisting on being the sole transporter of it.
4. What were the unintended consequences of the donor countries' supplying food?
5. Two-thirds of the children were malnourished and stunted in their growth, according to a 1998 World Food Program survey. Other surveys showed that hunger, stunting, and wasting diseases were three or four times more likely to occur among those in the rural areas than around Pyongyang. Explain the geographic inequity. Explain the conditions behind these statistics.
6. What did Shin learn was "missing" when he started partnering with the educated newcomer.

Chapter 12 Sewing and Snitching

1. Describe the hierarchy in the sewing factory among the Bowiwons and the Chongbanjongs.
2. What happened to Shin when he dropped a sewing machine?
3. Comment on Shin's avoidance of his eyes after he snitched on Kang Chul Min for stealing a piece of cloth.

Chapter 13 Deciding Not to Snitch

1. What did Shin's question to Park, "By the way, where is Pyongyang?" tell Park about Shin?
2. How did Park's monthlong one-on-one seminar change his life? Mention concepts of money, food, and a better life.
3. Explain the sentence, "Freedom, in Shin's mind, was just another word for grilled meat."
4. Shin "perhaps made the first decision of his life. He chose not to snitch". This choice showed his new way to survive rather than a new ethical system. Explain the difference.
5. Explain the sentence, "Trust was a good way to get shot".
6. Why did Park Yong Chul go back to North Korea and why was he imprisoned?
7. Describe the government's control of lice and Shin's subsequent decision to escape.
8. How and why did Shin shift his lifelong from "wariness to betrayal" and how he connected to people?
9. By comparing the Nazi concentration camps and Shin's imprisonment, the author captures Shin's sense of being in a kind of Skinner's box, an abhorrent cage. Why does he suddenly feel this way?

Chapter 14 Preparing to Run

1. Discuss Shin's trust issue that he has to overcome regarding Park.
2. Why does Shin now start feeling fear, not guilt, when he thinks of his mother's death and his own plan to escape?
3. Despite absurd, odd, and poor calculations, Shin considered he had a 90 percent chance of escaping. Why was he so confident?

Chapter 15 The Fence

1. In what way was life in the camp like that of a cow?
2. The narrator attributes Shin's escape to "luck." Discuss this account.
3. Why did Shin have no direction once he was free. What happened to Park?

Chapter 16 Stealing

1. Why are uniforms prevalent in North Korea?
2. Describe Shin's shock during the first few days outside the camp.
3. Describe Camp 14, according to the summary on page 123, and why Shin felt free no matter the terrible status of North Korea compared to other countries.
4. Describe the "wanderers" in North Korea and the economic conditions that produced these numbers.
5. What factors affect the permeability of the border between North and South Korea? What is true about the number of defectors over the last 20 years?
6. What is the range of costs that defectors pay and the range of the time it takes to get processed?
7. How did the "slipstream of smuggling, trading, and petty bribery" help Shin in his escape?

Chapter 17 Riding North

1. Why did the North Korean government fear "insurgent capitalism"?
2. What kind of labor camps did the government build and for what purpose?
3. Describe Shin's "decompression" in which he learned what normal behavior outside the camp was. How did he get in trouble because of his lack of understanding?
4. Describe the American deserter's story, his wife, and the end of his strange adventures.
5. What did Shin steal after his train ride that made him consider China possible again?

Chapter 18 The Border

1. Describe "the window" that allowed Shin to cross the border.
2. How did a porous border change lives?
3. What did Shin wonder when he looked back after crossing the border?

Chapter 19 China

1. What allowed Shin to move out of his lifetime to slavery after he was in China?

2. What did Shin receive in exchange for his cheap labor more than monetary gain?
3. What was true about the border or shadow lands inside China regarding the language and ethnicity of the inhabitants? What percentage were ethnic North Koreans? What cultural change did they bring about in North Korea as a result of their living in China?
4. Describe the conflict between international law related to people being allowed to leave their country and the strategic interests of North Korea and China.
5. Explain the three reasons China does not want North Korean defectors coming into its borders.

Chapter 20 Asylum

1. Even though Shin had food and a radio at the pig farm, after ten months he decided to leave. What had a great effect on that decision and why did he feel this way?
2. Why did Shin switch from stealing to begging when he arrived in China?
3. What did the journalist offer him?
4. What did Shin do in the Seoul consulate?
5. Explain the contrast between what Shin told the interrogators in South Korea and what other defectors told them?

Chapter 21 K'uredit K'Adus

1. What benefits did Shin receive in South Korea? What adjustment problems did he experience?
2. Why did he have to be retaught history?
3. Describe the paranoia for North Koreans during and after captivity.
4. What was their cognitive condition when they arrived in South Korea?
5. Harden says, "In addition to being paranoid, confused, and intermittently technophobic, defectors tend to suffer from preventable diseases and conditions." Why did they have these diseases?
6. Describe the "debt anxiety" and the post-traumatic stress disorder that the defectors experienced in South Korea?
7. Characterize most defectors.
8. What evidence did the investigators in South Korea have to support the claim that Shin's story was true?
9. Explain Shin's self-awareness in his inability to change yet his realization that he was blocking his own adjustment.

Chapter 22 South Koreans Are Not So Interested

1. How do you account for South Koreans' lack of interest, ("their collective yawn") in the plight of most North Koreans?
2. Why are the South Koreans more interested in "preserving peace and protecting their living standards" than in addressing the great needs of the North?
3. Discuss South Korea's position on reunification and the rationale.
4. What is the "pursuit of the right spec" and why is it so strong in South Korea?
5. What became Shin's mission in life? What was his fear? What was his hope?
6. Discuss the suicide rate and why it is so high in South Korea.

Chapter 23 USA

1. Describe Shin's nightmares.
2. Why did Shin feel "a dead space" inside him and how did he describe it? Why does he see happiness as selfish?
3. Shin tried to love, laugh, and cry, but he often "had trouble distinguishing between constructive criticism and personal betrayal." Explain this phenomenon.
4. Why did the narrator say that Shin had never been brainwashed?
5. What did the Christian family teach Shin?
6. Explain why Shin continues to have guilt and self-loathing as he learns about other families in contrast to the kind of son he was.
7. Why was Shin unable to commit to anything?

Epilogue No Escape

1. How does the epilogue's discussion of "harnessing self-loathing" and "seizing control of the past" relate to Shin's humanization process?