

Dear Incoming Freshmen and Parents of Incoming Freshmen:

The faculty at Antioch Community High School eagerly anticipates the arrival of our new freshman class. We want to do everything possible to make high school a rewarding experience for both our students and their families.

We believe that reading is one of the keys to academic success. To promote reading, we would like the incoming freshmen to read *Downriver* by Will Hobbs. The English teachers selected this book because it tells an engaging story that raises challenging questions. Students will find the book an entertaining, thought-provoking read.

The book belongs to the student. Students, please write your name on the book, and as you read, highlight passages that you feel reveal important aspects of the characters or themes of the story. As you read the book, respond to the study guide questions included with this letter.

The freshman English teachers will start the first day of class with this book, so all students should complete the reading and writing assignments before the start of school and bring them to class the first day.

*We encourage parents to join their children and read along.* Thank you for completing this work during the summer. If parents or students have any questions, please contact Mr. Nekritz or Mr. Whitehurst. We hope you have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mike Nekritz,  
Principal

John Whitehurst  
English Department Chair

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Downriver Study Guide*

Directions: Answer all of the questions as you read the novel. Please answer the questions in complete sentences.

Chapters 1-4

1. Describe the kind of camp the book is about.
2. Why was Jessie on the camping trip?
3. Jessie was thinking about her father. In her flashbacks, she would remember being mean to her father. How did she feel about the way she treated her father?
4. Do you think she had the right to be so tough on her father? Explain your answer.
5. In a sentence or two describe Jessie's experience climbing Storm King.
6. Why was Jessie so mean Freddy after he worked so hard to save her?

## Chapters 5-8

1. Do you think Troy is someone Jessie can trust? Explain your answer.

2. Do you think Freddy is someone Jessie can trust? Explain your answer.

3. Write a sentence or two to describe the following characters:

Heather-

Star-

Rita-

Adam-

Pug-

Freddy-

Troy-

## Chapters 9-12

1. Jessie went for a long walk with whom? What did they find?
2. Why was everyone mad when they came back from the long walk?
3. Why did Al say the group had more imagination than sense?
4. After Al joined the group, why was everyone so nasty to him?
5. Describe the plan that failed.

## Chapters 13-16

1. Explain at least four things that showed Troy's dark side.
2. Why was Troy so jealous of Freddy?
3. What was it about Troy that caused people to follow him?
4. Would you follow Troy? Explain your answer.

## Chapter 17- end

At the end, they finally gave up the run, and they said there was so much to say. Explain what they meant.