

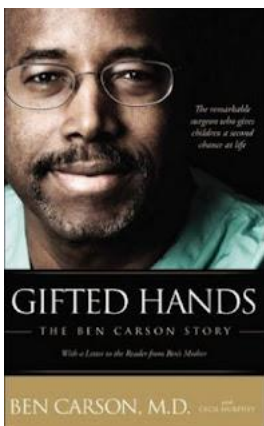
SUMMER READING

10th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment

This summer, you will be required to read the book *Gifted Hands* by Ben Carson. I have provided a list of questions that will be useful for this assignment. While reading, keep notes that you can use later when writing your answers to each question. You need text evidence for your response questions so make sure you are marking down page numbers and direct quotes and summaries/paraphrases. There will be a test over the material in this book on Tuesday, August 15, when you return to school.

Literary Questions

1. **FAITH:** Discuss the various meanings of the word "faith." What role does faith play in Carson's life as described throughout his biography? What role does faith play in your life?
 2. **FAMILY:** How crucial do you think family is in determining a person's fate? Who has the greatest influence on Carson and what is that influence? How does his father's absence affect his life? What external influences helped to determine Carson's success or failure, including environment and opportunity?
 3. **CIRCUMSTANCES:** How does experiencing poverty at an early age influence Carson both negatively and positively? What advice does he receive from his brother and mother? How is Carson able to overcome the effects of poverty?
 4. **EDUCATION:** Discuss Carson's struggle in elementary school. Who truly recognized the importance of education and encouraged Carson to persevere? How? What help did Carson receive that helped him to improve and eventually succeed? What is the difference between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation? Which would Carson state is most important and why?
 5. **CAREER:** Why does Carson decide to become a doctor? Why does Ben share the case histories that are found in the novel? Which of the case histories presented in the novel affected Carson the most? Why does it affect him the most?
 6. **PURPOSE:** Discuss Carson's concept of talent and its role in achieving success. What is Carson's purpose in writing this book? What does he hope to accomplish?
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Ben Carson, M.D., works medical miracles. Today, he is one of the most celebrated neurosurgeons in the world. In *Gifted Hands*, he tells of his inspiring odyssey from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins hospital at age 33.

Ben Carson is a role model for anyone who attempts the seemingly impossible as he takes you into the operating room where he has saved countless lives.

Filled with fascinating case histories, this is the dramatic and intimate story of Ben Carson's struggle to beat the odds—and of the faith and genius that make him one of the greatest life-givers of the century.

How can Ben Carson's life story inspire YOU to overcome life's greatest obstacles and achieve your dreams and God-given purpose?