

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



# Fever 1793



## Summer Reading Activity

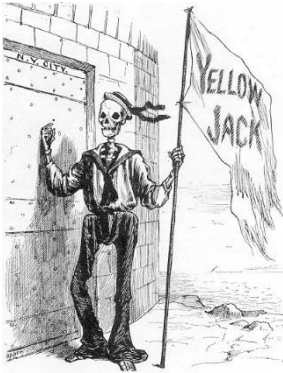
**WHAT:** This is the summer reading activity to be completed alongside *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

**WHY:** This packet is meant to help get you as ready as you can for the first unit and to make 8th grade your best year yet.

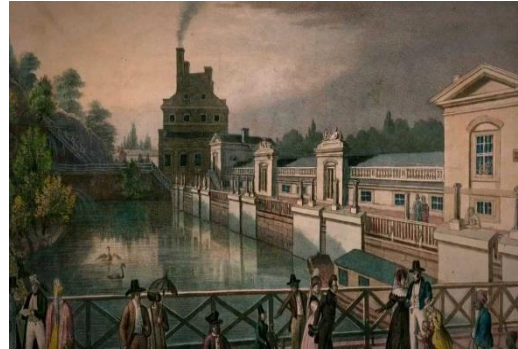
**WHEN:** Do not save this packet until the last minute – or even the last week – of your summer vacation. Spread out the reading; follow the reading schedule; keep your summer as enjoyable as possible. This packet will be **due** the first day of your 8th grade year: **Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**HOW:** To help manage your time and your reading, be sure to follow the reading schedule. It is designed to help minimize the amount of reading you have to do at one time. Of course --- you can always read more than scheduled!

## Wait! But before you start reading ...



The yellow fever was a real thing. It was a deadly disease that spread wildly through Philadelphia in the late 1790s. People who were infected displayed yellowish skin and unstoppable vomiting. More than 5,000 people died!



Philadelphia in 1793 was not like it is today. There was no such thing – yet – as electricity or running water. People relied on candles for light and fire for heat. With no running water, people often dumped their business in the street, if you know what I mean. Keep these things in mind as you read the summer book.

## Fever 1793: Reading Schedule

*To help make your life easier, my recommendation is to follow the reading schedule below. This will make sure you do the most manageable amount of reading possible. **Do not wait until the week before to read the book and complete the activity.***

*Hint: Check off the chapters and pages as you read them.*

Week and Dates	Chapters to Read	Pages to Cover	Check When Finished
Week 1: June 13 <sup>th</sup> – June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 1, 2, 3	1 – 18	
Week 2: June 20 <sup>th</sup> – June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 4, 5, 6	18 – 34	
Week 3: June 27 <sup>th</sup> – July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Chapters 7, 8, 9	34 – 70	
Week 4: July 4 <sup>th</sup> – July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 10, 11, 12	70 – 88	
Week 5: July 11 <sup>th</sup> – July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 13, 14, 15	88 – 113	
Week 6: July 18 <sup>th</sup> – July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Chapters 16, 17, 18	113 – 138	
Week 7: July 25 <sup>th</sup> – July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 19, 20, 21	138 – 169	
Week 8: August 1 <sup>st</sup> – August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 22, 23, 24	169 – 200	
Week 9: August 8 <sup>th</sup> – August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 25, 26, 27	200 – 228	
Week 10: August 15 <sup>th</sup> – August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapters 28, 29, Epilogue	228 – 244	

## Fever 1793: Summer Activity Questions

**Directions:** For each chapter of the novel, you have a set of questions to answer. Record these in a writing journal that will be handed in on the first day of school for a grade. Write in complete and quality sentences.

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### Week One

#### Chapter 1: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1793:

1. In the box below, list all of the characters we have met so far. Then provide 1-2 adjectives that describe each character.
2. What is the setting of the novel? Here you should use textual evidence (direct references taken from the book) to support your answer.

#### Chapter 2: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. In the box below, list any additional characters we meet in this chapter. Then provide 1-2 characteristics for that character.
2. What happened to Matilda's father?
3. What happened to Matilda's friend, Polly?

#### Chapter 3: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1793

We are going to try a bit of textual analysis. Read the following quote and my analysis of it. Study it because you are going to have to practice yourself.

**Quote: "Life was a battle, and Mother a tired and bitter captain. The captain I had to obey" (p.17).**

Analysis: Here, Anderson (the author) is using a metaphor of a ship and captain. Matilda's mother is the captain, and a "bitter" captain. This shows us that Mattie and her mother do not have the best relationship. Mattie sees her mother as a cranky captain and Mattie has no choice but to "obey" her.

1. Your task is to find another quote from the book so far and analyze it. Write down the quote and the page number and then analyze it like I did above.

## Week Two

### Chapter 4: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Describe Matilda's grandfather, Captain William Farnsworth Cook, using textual evidence.
2. Who did Matilda's grandfather fight for and why is this so important?
3. There has been talk around the town of the yellow fever. Describe how the author, Laurie Halse Anderson, builds suspense. What effect does it have on the reader?

### Chapter 5: August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. On pages 24-32, Mattie goes to the market and notices a lot of sensory language (sights, smells, sounds, feelings, tastes). Using textual evidence, describe at least 3 things she notices at the market.
2. What do the church bells tolling signify (mean)?

### Chapter 6: August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Analyze the following quote: **"I thought Grandfather was right. If we didn't open a shop or expand the coffeehouse, someone else would; and then it would be too late. Mother always planned for the darkest days" (p.39).**
    - a. Hint: what is Grandfather right about?
    - b. Hint: why will someone else open a coffee shop if they do not?
    - c. Hint: what does it mean that Mother "always planned for the darkest days"?Your response should be 3-5 complete and quality sentences.
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## Week Three

### Chapter 7: August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Why does Matilda wish she had let Eliza cut her hair? What does this tell us about how Mattie is changing?
2. What happens to Colette Ogilvie?

### Chapter 8: September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1793

1. What suspenseful act happens at the end of the chapter?
2. How would you feel if this were to happen to someone you loved and why?
3. How do you think you would react if Quarryville were all of a sudden struck with the fever? In what ways would you behave similarly to Matilda? In what ways would you act differently? Why?
4. How do you think Matilda is handling the fever epidemic so far? Why?

### Chapter 9: September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1793

1. Who is Mr. Rowley?

2. Do we trust Mr. Rowley? Why or why not? Use textual evidence to support your response.
  3. Mother appears to be sick at the end of the chapter. Describe her symptoms using textual evidence.
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## Week Four

### Chapter 10: September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Read (and highlight) the following biographical information about Dr. Rush (taken from the University of Pennsylvania's website):

Dr. Benjamin Rush, the "father of American psychiatry," was the first to believe that mental illness is a disease of the mind and not a "possession of demons."

Rush graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1766.

He was elected to the Chair of Institutes, Medical and Clinical Practice of the University of Pennsylvania in 1791 where he is known to have told his students: "Attend the poor, they are your best patients, God is their paymaster."

Rush also believed strongly in bleeding and purging patients to cure diseases. This belief caused a schism [divide] in the local medical community during the Yellow Fever outbreaks. Dr. Philip Syng Physick supported Rush's belief and when both contracted yellow fever during the epidemic of 1793, Rush bled himself and his friend. Both men recovered, though we know today that the bleeding played no part in their survival.

2. What arrives in the mail for Mattie?
3. Who is it from?
4. Where are Mattie and Grandfather going and why?

### Chapter 11: September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. What unfortunate event happens to Mattie and her grandfather on the wagon ride to the country?
2. How would you feel if this happened to you and why? What would you do if you were in Mattie's position and why?

### Chapter 12: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Mattie has to step up and take care of her grandfather. What does this tell us about her character?
2. How has Mattie changed from the beginning of the book until now? Use textual evidence to support your response.

## Week Five

### Chapter 13: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Why do you think people are being so unkind to Mattie? How does the panic about the yellow fever impact people's actions?
2. How do you think an epidemic like the yellow fever impacts a person?
3. What happens to Mattie at the end of this chapter?

### Chapter 14: September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Who is Mrs. Flagg?
2. What is Bush Hill? What is its purpose?
3. What is the French method for treating yellow fever victims? How is it different than Rush's treatment?

### Chapter 15: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1793

1. Who is Dr. Deveze?
  2. Analyze the following quote in 3-5 sentences:

"No kin of mine goes to an orphan house, not as long as I have breath in my body"  
(p.111)

    - a. Hint: what is Grandfather saying about Mattie here?
    - b. Hint: What does that tell us about his character?
    - c. Hint: What does that tell us about how much he loves his granddaughter?
  3. Pick a quote of your own from this chapter to analyze (3-5 sentences).
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## Week Six

### Chapter 16: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Mattie makes a note about how she does not want to be a servant girl or a wife. She wants to be something more. Write about at least one other example of this theme of independence. Support your response with textual evidence.

### Chapter 17: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. What do Mattie and Grandfather find when they return to the coffeehouse (hint: what happened to it)?
2. Why does the desolate (sad, deserted) garden symbolize? Hint: think about other things or places that are desolate and why. Explain your answer using 3-5 complete and quality sentences.

### Chapter 18: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Why is taking a bath such a big deal for Mattie and Grandfather?

2. Analyze this quote: “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety” (p.137).
  3. Pick a theme from the book so far. Explain its importance. Use textual evidence to support your answer.
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## Week Seven

### Chapter 19: September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Who comes to the coffeehouse?
2. What happens? Specifically, what does Mattie do? Describe this event using as much detail as possible.
3. What happens to Grandfather?
4. Why is what happened to Grandfather so devastating for Mattie?
5. Make a prediction: what will Mattie do next?

### Chapter 20: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Pick and analyze a quote that shows how much Mattie is grieving (suffering). Be sure to include the quote and page number.
2. How does Mattie look for her mother?
3. On pages 161 and 162, Mattie meets a little girl who has a broken doll. Why does Mattie think that people, like the doll, are broken? What does she mean by this?

### Chapter 21: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Who is Nell?
2. What is Nell’s background story?
3. Read (and highlight) the following information about the Free African Society (taken from the History Society of Pennsylvania’s website):

Among the first organizations of its kind in America, the Free African Society's main goal was to provide aid to newly freed blacks so that they could gather strength and develop leaders in the community. The Society soon became too large to meet in Richard Allen’s house and its meetings moved to the Quaker African School House. In 1789, the Society more closely aligned itself with the Quaker faith and its meetings began to mimic Quaker services. That prompted Allen, who was a Methodist, and many who were loyal to him to leave the organization.

[The Free African Society played an incredibly large role in helping the city of Philadelphia during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793 because its volunteers were unafraid to go into sick houses and help those who were suffering. Without them, Philadelphia may not have made it out of the yellow fever with as many people as it did.]

## Week Eight

### Chapter 22: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Who is Matilda reunited with in this chapter?
2. What was Dr. Rush wrong about?
3. What are some of the consequences of Dr. Rush's mistake?

### Chapter 23: September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Why is Matilda warned to not love Nell?
2. Pick a quote from this chapter and analyze it in 3-5 complete and quality sentences.

### Chapter 24: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1793

1. What new responsibility does Mattie take on?
  2. Write 3-5 sentences about how Mattie has changed from the beginning of the novel until now. Use textual evidence to support your answer.
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## Week Nine

### Chapter 25: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Read and analyze this quote in 3-5 complete and quality sentences:

**“Night melted into day. Day surrendered to night” (p. 203)**

### Chapter 26: October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1793

1. Why is Matilda so excited about the frost? What does it mean for the city of Philadelphia?
2. Pick a theme from this novel (that you have not discussed before) and write about it. Use textual evidence to support your response.

### Chapter 27: October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Matilda is now running the shop with Eliza. That means two women are in charge. Write about the two themes that are present here: independence and female strength. Discuss how both are important to the story and why as well as how the two themes have changed since the beginning of the book.



## Week Ten

### Chapter 28: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. How has Mattie changed from the beginning of the book?
2. Why do you think Mattie has changed?
3. What has been the strongest example of a change in Mattie?

### Chapter 29: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1793

1. Who returns?
2. How has the relationship between Mattie and her mother changed since the beginning of the novel?
  - a. Hint: What was their relationship like at the beginning and why?
  - b. Hint: What is their relationship like now?
  - c. Hint: What happened to change their relationship?

### Chapter 30: Epilogue

1. Describe what you feel about the ending in 3-5 complete and quality sentences.
  - a. Hint: Is it what you expected?
  - b. Hint: Would you have written it differently?
  - c. Hint: What did you think it would be like?
  - d. Hint: Would you change it? If so, how would you change it?