



# HILL TOP

## Preparatory School

Summer 2021

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

This summer, the students heading into 8th grade will be assigned *Forge*, by Laurie Halse Anderson. This book was chosen because the 8th graders will be studying early American history in 8th grade. *Forge*'s setting is Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78.

Enclosed you will find the reading guide that should be given to your child. It gives a very brief description of the book and provides instructions on the writing assignment that corresponds to the book. We ask that each student answer all the questions from the reading guide. Each question's response should be a paragraph long. The answers to the questions are due on September 14.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mcohen@hilltopprep.org](mailto:mcohen@hilltopprep.org).

Sincerely,

Mike Cohen  
Middle School Division Head

*Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson

“In this [book] we learn what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in the midst of the chaos of the American Revolution.

In the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter, Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of being discovered as an escaped slave passing for free. Isabel is also at Valley Forge—against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom.”

From <http://madwomanintheforest.com/historical-forge/>

### **Student Assignment**

*Write a paragraph for each of the four questions asked from this book. Make sure you use topic sentences for each paragraph.*

1. Using four examples from the book, explain how Curzon gains respect from those around him.
2. Using three examples throughout the book, show how Curzon experiences racism. Explain how he still shows respect for himself despite this racism.
3. What emotions did this book bring about? Give three emotions, using at least three examples from the book.
4. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not? Include at least three examples from the book that help explain your answer.