

Incoming Junior CP and Level 2  
Summer Reading Requirements 2018

This summer you will be required to read the novel *The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci, a mystery about a missing teenager and the politics of small-town America. You must purchase a physical copy of the text for use in the class when we return in August. Do not rely on borrowing from the library or using an ebook for this. Ebooks will not be permitted in the classroom. A completed study guide is due August 27, 2018.

Responses should be written in complete sentences and typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, with the MLA heading as follows:

Student first and last name

Your Teacher's Name

American Literature

27 August 2018

*The Body of Christopher Creed* Study Guide

1. Early in the novel, Torey remembers a time when he was told that “the truth was less important...than the impact the truth would have on people” (19). How does this remark connect to Torey’s view of his town, after Christopher Creed’s disappearance?
2. Why does finding his name on Chris Creed’s farewell email upset Torey? How do his emotions afterward connect to the discussion of religion in the novel? What purpose does Torey eventually find for the names in Chris’s email?
3. The need to do penance is a recurring theme throughout the novel. How do Mrs. Creed, Torey, and Ali handle their guilt?
4. This book discusses the nature of secrets, and the effects revealed secrets can have, in both large and small ways. Choose three secrets that were revealed during the course of the novel and discuss the impacts of those secrets on specific characters.
5. The story of Bob and Digger Haines serves as a mirror of the story of Sylvia and Chris Creed. How are these two stories similar, and how are they different?
6. How do mystical/supernatural elements impact Torey?
7. Characterize Isabella: what kind of person is she? What motivates her? How is she important to Chris Creed?
8. Vera’s name comes from the Latin word *varus*, meaning “true.” How is what Vera predicts proven true? How does Torey misinterpret her prediction?
9. Towards the end of the novel, Torey thinks he is in Hell.
  - (a) Why does he think this? What does he think happened?
  - (b) Where was he, actually? What actually happened?
  - (c) What does this belief demonstrate about his conscience?