

HSTA102 United States History and AmLit

Topic 10 – World War II

Mark Sullivan, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*

DIRECTIONS:

- READ THE BOOK! (You will actually enjoy it)
- Highlight and sticky note that book like it's the only way you'll ever amount to anything in life
- Answer the questions in either paragraph or essay form (depending upon each section)

Section 1 (Short Answers)

Directions for SHORT ANSWERS – After reading Parts 1 & 2 of the book, choose **ONE** writing prompts and answer the question with the following formatting in mind:

- Write **1-2 paragraphs**
 - Your short answer must contain a **THESIS** statement that summarizes your answer to the question (this should be the first sentence of your paragraph).
 - You must use at least **TWO short quotes** attributed to the source to which you are responding, with page numbers included. (EX: Pino said, ‘quote quote quote, quote quote’ (82)).
 - You answer should contain numerous, **SPECIFIC** examples from the reading assignments.
1. “Nessun dorma, none shall sleep, until the suitor’s name is found... Nessun Dorma is a towering piece that build and builds, demanding that the singer grow stronger, revealing in his love for the princess and surer of victory with every moment that ticks toward dawn.” How is this quote symbolic of Pino’s journey?
 2. Which part of the story of Pino’s experience at Casa Alpina do you find the most impactful and why?
 3. Discuss the importance of hope as a motif.

Section 2 (Short Answers)

Directions for SHORT ANSWERS – After reading Parts 3 & 4 of the book, choose **TWO** writing prompts and answer the question with the following formatting in mind:

- Write **1-2 paragraphs**
 - Your short answer must contain a **THESIS** statement that summarizes your answer to the question (this should be the first sentence of your paragraph).
 - You must use at least **TWO short quotes** attributed to the source to which you are responding, with page numbers included. (EX: Pino said, ‘quote quote quote, quote quote’ (82)).
 - You answer should contain numerous, **SPECIFIC** examples from the reading assignments.
1. Discuss the motif of betrayal in the book.
 2. Discuss the motif of a dual nature. How does General Leyers exhibit this dual nature? How does Pino also exhibit this dual nature?
 3. In what ways does Pino mature and come of age in this story? Is this a coming-of-age-story?
 4. Pino experiences internal and external conflicts in the novel. What conflicts do Pino and others experience? Are most of the conflicts in the novel internal or external? Are they mostly man vs. man, man vs. nature, or man vs. self? How does conflict affect the plot?

Section 3 (Characterization)

Directions – After reading Parts 5 & the Aftermath of the book, choose **ONE** writing prompts and answer the question with the following formatting in mind:

- Write **1-2 paragraphs**
- Your short answer must contain a **THESIS** statement that summarizes your answer to the question (this should be the first sentence of your paragraph).

- You must use at least **TWO short quotes** attributed to the source to which you are responding, with page numbers included. (EX: Pino said, ‘quote quote quote, quote quote” (82)).
 - You answer should contain numerous, **SPECIFIC** examples from the reading assignments.
1. Discuss Pino’s character. How are his character and experiences similar to the literary hero’s journey?
 2. Write a characterization essay about either Anna Marta. Discuss the different aspects of her personality, how she lives her life, what her philosophy of life is, and how her story progresses. Given what happens to her in the novel, do you agree or disagree with her philosophy of life?
 3. Hans Leyers prophesied, “things had gone his way before Adolf Hitler, during Adolf Hitler, and after Adolf Hitler” (506). Discuss how Leyers’s experiences during and after the war demonstrates this. Do you feel that justice was served? Should we be content to say, “Justice is the Lord’s?”

Section 4 (Final Essay)

Directions for a RESPONSE ESSAY – After reading the book, provide an essay response using details from your reading. Answer the question with the following in mind:

- WRITE **ONE 2-3 PAGE ESSAY (double-spaced)**
- Your essay must contain a **THESIS** statement that summarizes your answer to the question.
- You must use at least **THREE short quotes** attributed to the source to which you are responding, with page numbers included. (EX: Pino said, ‘quote quote quote, quote quote” (82)).
- You answer should contain numerous, **SPECIFIC** examples from the reading assignments.
- **Recommendation:** Do NOT simply choose characters and events from the beginning of the book – prove that you’ve read the whole thing – and analyze characters that are foils to one another or provide some kind of contrast)
- You should conclude your response with a closing statement.

Prompts (choose ONE):

1. *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* describes horrific scenes filled with violence, bombings and ruthless executions. Describe the themes of survival and resistance in WWII and analyze TWO CHARACTERS who help illustrate these themes with detailed examples and describe what their experiences revealed about the WWII era.
2. Throughout *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* there are historical characters that are described as being human, but doing inhuman, evil actions against others. What contrasts are presented throughout the novel of seemingly normal human beings doing inhuman actions toward one another? Analyze at least TWO CHARACTERS who help illustrate these themes with detailed examples and describe what their experiences revealed about the WWII era.
3. Discuss the effects of WWII on the people of Italy. What terrible struggles did they have to undergo, and did they receive justice in the end? Analyze at least TWO CHARACTERS who help illustrate these themes with detailed examples and describe what their experiences revealed about the WWII era.