

The  
Wednesday  
Wars

by  
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8<sup>th</sup> grade Summer Reading

Instructions:

Answer each question  
in complete sentences  
on notebook paper.

## *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 1 – September

1. In 2-3 sentences, explain **WHY** Holling Hoodhood has to spend Wednesday afternoons with Mrs. Baker.
2. Holling thinks Mrs. Baker hates him. Do you think he is **imagining** this hatred or are his feelings grounded in fact? Explain your answer in 3-4 sentences.
3. Describe the Hoodhood home. Why does Holling call it the **Perfect House**?
4. Mr. Hoodhood is unsympathetic to Holling's feelings that Mrs. Baker hates him. Why?
5. Why did the principal want to see Holling? What was the result of Holling's visit to the office?

## *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 2 - October

1. Why does Holling do all of the chores for Mrs. Baker **WITHOUT** complaining?
2. What war was occurring in 1967? Who was president?
3. What is Mrs. Baker's new plan for Holling on Wednesday afternoons? How does Holling feel about these plans? *p. 40*
4. On page 48, Holling explains to Mrs. Baker, "Because they wouldn't let him. They decided he had to be a certain way, and he was trapped. He couldn't be anything except for what he was." **Why** was Holling able to understand how this character felt?

### *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 3 - November

1. What good things does Holling say he finds in the play he reads next, *The Tempest*?
2. What are some of the “curses” from Shakespeare that Holling likes? List three.
3. How does Holling feel about his part in the Shakespeare play? Give two reasons why he feels this way.
4. Describe what happened to the Catholic Relief Agency where Mai Thi lives. Make an *inference* as to why this happened.

### *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 4 - December

1. How does Holling describe (to his friends) the character and costume of Ariel? Be specific. **Infer:** Why does he describe Ariel in this way? p. 82-83
2. What were Mrs. Bigio’s remarks to Mai Thi? In your opinion, are her remarks justified? Explain why or why not. p. 95
3. What did Mickey Mantle do and say that hurt Holling? What was Danny’s reaction? What does this tell you about Danny’s character?
4. Mrs. Baker makes up for the Mickey Mantle incident. What does she arrange for Holling, Doug, and Danny? Be specific.

## *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 5 - January

1. Why is Holling so uncomfortable while taking the Achievement Tests? Explain how the author's use of imagery helps you feel Holling's discomfort. Use at least 2 details.
2. Mrs. Baker gives Mai Thi her own cup of hot chocolate. Why? What does this action say about Mrs. Baker? (REMEMBER: Mrs. Baker's husband is fighting in Vietnam. Mrs. Bigio's husband was killed in Vietnam)
3. Explain how Holling saves his sister. Why does Holling feel quite different when his photo appears in the newspaper the second time?

## *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 6 - February

1. Explain why Holling thinks *Romeo and Juliet* is stupid.
2. How does Holling convince Meryl Lee to go out with him on Valentine's Day?
3. Holling encounters a problem with his upcoming date. What is the problem? How does Mrs. Bigio solve his problem?
4. Why do you think Mr. Kowalski withdraws his bid for the new junior high?

### *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 7 - March

1. Holling has **two experiences** of foretelling the future. What does he call this? Describe each experience.
2. Explain why Holling's sister does not want to work for her dad. What does Mr. Hoodhood think of her reasons?
3. What is the significance of the "Ides of March" to Julius Caesar, Holling, and Mrs. Baker? Explain each separately.

### *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 8 - April

1. What happened politically with President Johnson in 1968? What reasons did he give for his decision? What reason did Holling's sister give for his decision?
2. How does Holling's dad let him down? Who solves the problem and how?
3. Explain why Mrs. Baker's presence at the baseball game enables the boys to have a tour of Yankee Stadium and be treated as special guests.
4. Why does Holling win his race? What is he imagining as he runs? Who encourages him?

### *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 9 - May

1. What was special about the month of May and what did it mean to Holling and his classmates?
2. Explain how Holling was able to send his sister money for a bus ticket home. How did he decide which Western Union to send the money to? When and how did he know that she received the money?
3. Explain how Lieutenant Baker survived and was rescued from the jungles of Vietnam.

### *The Wednesday Wars* Comprehension Questions Chapter 10 - June

1. What mistake did Holling make while hiking to the campsite? Explain the consequences of this for the entire group and for Holling individually.
2. What offer did Mrs. Bigio make to Mai Thi? Why was this so ironic?
3. What is the climax in *The Wednesday Wars*?
4. On pages 261-264, what do the strawberries **symbolize**?