

## Honors Religion 4 Service Summer Reading

### *Tattoos on the Heart*- Gregory Boyle

This year we will be embarking on a journey together that will constantly challenge you in many ways. Father Greg Boyle shares with us, through *Tattoos on the Heart*, the beautiful, terrible, heartbreaking, and magnificent stories of many Homies he has encountered throughout his life. I urge you to read this book carefully and thoroughly, and apply the lessons you learn to our class and service this year. As you read *Tattoos on the Heart*, you will be completing several journal questions **annotated in-text** near where the answers are located in your book.

Each prompt is correlated to a chapter in the book, and has **several questions within each prompt**- read carefully and answer all aspects of each prompt. This assignment references specific information from the book but is also a personal reflection, so the use of pronouns and informal jargon is allowed. Again- your answers must be **handwritten** and **annotated within the text of the novel on the page where the answers are located**. In addition to this assignment we will also be having a class discussion on the entire book which will count as your first quiz grade. If you have any questions about this assignment contact me during the summer [asilber@gchsrms.org](mailto:asilber@gchsrms.org)

### **DO NOT LEAVE THIS ASSIGNMENT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF SUMMER!**

1. *God, I Guess*- In this chapter Boyle shares many stories of the people he has met in his life, and their image of God. Through these accounts Boyle highlights the fact that, "God seems to be an unwilling participant in our efforts to pigeonhole Him." First, identify and annotate Bill's image of God, what is your response to Bill's image? Next, annotate and reflect on one of the Homie's images of God that speaks to you the most. 1. Briefly share their image, 2. How/Why does this speak to you? 3. Reflect on your own image of God- was it based on something that happened to you, a family member, a close friend? 4. The author uses the pronoun "Her" to describe his image of God a few times in this chapter- annotate your response to this, does this connect with your own image of God? Finally, reflect on Boyle's quote, "God's unwieldy love, which cannot be contained by our words, wants to accept all that we are and sees our humanity as the privileged place to encounter this magnanimous love."
2. *Dis-Grace*: This chapter is all about names- and the importance of names. Read this chapter and annotate/reflect on how something simple, like knowing a name can make an impact on someone's life. Next- challenge yourself this week to be on the lookout for someone who looks/seems/feels like they need to be "called by name." The Lord says, "I have called you by name. You are mine," so put words into action this week by getting to know someone new, by name, and share their story in your annotations in detail. Additionally, share one homie's name and their story from this chapter in your journal (not Sniper). Annotate how their story connects to being "called by name". Social Justice

requires us to frequently step out of our comfort zone and meet Christ where he is: on the street, in the poor and vulnerable, through our disgrace and shame, everywhere. Finally- annotate the main idea of "Sniper's" story- what is Boyle trying to teach us with this story? What feelings/images or response do you have to Sniper's story (draw a personal connection). Finally- reflect on the last paragraph in this chapter and draw a personal connection.

3. *Compassion*: First, annotate how the Homies define the difference between sympathy and empathy in this chapter- what do you believe they are trying to say? Next, how does the author define compassion? How does this relate to your definition? Annotate Betito's story and the "real deal"- who in your life do you consider "the real deal" and why? Annotate/recount what Boyle says Jesus' strategy is with the "outcast" or "sinner" is and how this relates to Looney's story. What is he trying to say here? How can we apply this method to the service we are preparing to perform this year in class? Next, reflect on what the "stink" in the church represented, and how Boyle was able to change how the parishioners saw it. Was there ever a time in your life where you prejudged someone without knowing their story? Annotate your personal story in text.. What factors contributed to your judgment? How/why did you change your mind? Who helped to change the way you saw that person? I'll leave you with this quote, "You have to be able to imagine lives that are not yours." We will be called to do this throughout our year together.
4. *Water, Oil, Flame: "Tu' eres basura."* In this chapter Boyle highlights the importance of family, and how many Homies who had been destroyed by their home life began to rebuild and became resilient. First, recount/annotate the story of George, Cisco and the baptism- how does Boyle use this to teach us about resilience? Next- annotate the definition of "amae" and apply it to a homie's experience from this chapter that contradicts the idea of amae. Annotate Danny's story and what the "don't move mentality" is. Choose one of the following Homies (Andres, Fabian, Elias or Jason) and annotate their story and how Boyle applies the "Don't Move Mentality" to them. Where does Boyle say that "Resilience" comes from? What actions/words/people/experiences in your life have helped to build your resilience? Comparably, which of those things have chipped away at your resilience? Finally, how can you apply the "Don't Move Mentality" to your own life?
5. *Slow Work*: In this chapter Boyle highlights that sometimes faith or the journey is "slow work." In an age with instant gratification of "likes" on a selfie, or the answers to any questions just one click away, "slow work" is a foreign term to us. Reflect in the margins on what the Lord is slowly working on in your life. How have you been working on this? What are the difficulties surrounding this slow work? Next, annotate one of the following Homies (David, Omar, Grumpy or Leo) and how Boyle applies the idea of slow work to their story. Annotate what lesson Boyle is trying to teach Bugsy with his "question"? How can we apply this lesson to social justice and the "good" we will try to accomplish this

year? Finally, what lesson/metaphor does Pedro reveal to Boyle (and us) in his dream? Describe a time when someone has held the flashlight for you, or you have held the flashlight for someone else.

6. *Jurisdiction*: This year we will be challenged to step into various jurisdictions that are new and even uncomfortable to us. Boyle urges us to, “close both eyes; see with the other one.” First- annotate what Boyle says we need to “dismantle” to allow others into our jurisdiction? List some of your own barriers you erect to keep others distant from you? Annotate the story of “Jesus in an apron” from this chapter- what point is Boyle trying to make here? Recount a time when someone was “Jesus in an apron” to you (someone who made you feel seen/like you belonged). Annotate the main idea of the “iguana stew” story, then note what lesson Boyle is trying to teach us here. Next, reflect on what “ingredient” you are going to bring to both class and service this year. How does that ingredient represent you? How will that ingredient make the stew better? Finally, what does Boyle teach us about relationships in this chapter? How does he use the personal accounts of the Homies to highlight this message?
7. *Gladness*: This chapter, as the name foreshadows, should fill you with gladness and have you laughing out loud. To start, Boyle, with the help of Dorothy Day and FDR, reminds us of the “Duty to Delight;” annotate what this term means and then identify **three different characters** mentioned and what their “Duty to Delight” moment was (Spider, Boyle’s Dad, Lupe, Mario and Frankie, Leon, Minor, Israel and Tony, Adam and Ricky). **Challenge**: This week be, “watchful for the hilarious and the heartwarming, the silly and the sublime.” Share in the margins of this chapter a story of something you witnessed this week that reminds you of the “Duty to Delight.” Finally- annotate the definition of “Homie-propism” and identify which one you enjoyed the most and why.
8. *Success*:. Read the first page of this chapter very carefully. Annotate what Bill Cain is saying about the Shroud of Turin and reflect on how this relates to what Boyle is saying about success in the third paragraph. Next, annotate what Mother Teresa’s take on success is- do you agree or disagree? What is frustrating about the “success” stories that Boyle shares in this chapter; be specific and detailed about one person’s story (Scrappy, Raul, Hector, Victor, Freddy, Shady or Mandy). How does Boyle use these stories to teach us about success? Next, what is your definition of success? How does your idea of success compare to Boyle’s? Finally, reflect on what Boyle has to say about the issue if your “primary concern is results” (pg. 178). With that in mind- what are your primary concerns for this year, both in service and in class?
9. *Kinship*: Early in the chapter Boyle references “no daylight to separate” what does he mean by this and how does he give an example of this? On the same page he defines “kinship”- annotate this definition (you will need it later). In this chapter Boyle states that the wrong idea has taken root in our world- what idea is he talking about (annotate it). Where do you see this “wrong idea” being played out in the world today? Annotate the

main idea of the story with Richard and the picture, share a time when someone made you feel "small" and if/how you were made to feel "big". Next, identify two different Homies from this chapter (not Richard) and share the moment when their, "soul feels its worth." This year we will be called to kinship with each other and with those who we will serve. Remember the stories and lessons from this chapter as our goal this year will be to make other's "souls feel their worth."