

## ***Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger**

### **English Language Arts, 10th Grade**

#### WHAT'S THE STORY?

Eleven-year-old Reuban Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest, has reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a crosscountry search for his outlaw older brother who has been controversially charged with murder. Their journey unfolds like a revelation, and its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.

#### CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

*The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.*

- **Unit 1: Environment and Identity**
  - Essential Question: “How do adversity and environment influence an individual’s behavior and identity?”
- **Unit 2: Impacting Others**
  - Essential Question: “How does an individual shape his or her environment? How does one influence others?”
- **Unit 3: Seeking Knowledge**
  - Essential Question: “How and where do I find knowledge outside of my own experience? How do I incorporate this knowledge into future inquiry?”

#### KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RL.10.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development. RL.10.2
- Analyze how complex characters develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. RL.10.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. RL.10.4
- Analyze how an author’s choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. RL.10.5
- Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature. RL.10.6
- Analyze and evaluate the representation of a subject or a key scene in multiple mediums-- including media, artistic, and other visual formats. RL.10.7
- Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work. RL.10.9

- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.10.12
- Analyze documents of historical and literary significance, including how they address related themes and concepts. RI.10.9
- Read and comprehend high quality dramas, prose, and poetry of appropriate quantitative and qualitative complexity for grade 10. RL.10.13
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 10 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies. RL.10.11
- Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make
- effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening. RL.10.10