Summer Reading Study Guide
For Students Entering Grade 8 (Social Studies)
Due Date: September 7, 2012

Fever 1793
by Laurie Halse Anderson
Name: ______________________________________

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Summary: During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen…Then the fever breaks out.

Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path turning Mattie’s world upside down. At her feverish mother’s insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. She soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.

Study Guide Questions

These questions must be handed in to your social studies teacher no later than Friday, September 9th.

1. Where does Matilda Live?

2. What business does Matilda’s family own?

3. Why doesn’t Polly show up for work?

4. Why is Matilda’s mother thinking of sending her to live with a family friend in the country?

5. Who is the boy Matilda has a crush on?
6. Aside from telling the time, why do the church bells ring?

7. Who does Matilda’s grandfather believe is to blame for the sickness circulating throughout the city?

8. What do Matilda and her grandfather encounter on their walk home from the printer?

9. What package did Matilda receive?

10. How did Matilda and her grandfather end up stranded?

11. What does Matilda use to try to catch fish?

12. What is Bush Hill?

13. What do Matilda and her grandfather discover when they return to the coffee house?

14. What item does Matilda bury with her grandfather?

15. With whom does Matilda reunite?
16. Who is Joseph?

17. Why does Dr. Rush want black people to help care for fever victims?

18. What falls from the sky as Eliza and Matilda are walking home?

19. Who is hidden behind the shutters in the house Matilda and Eliza pass on the way home?

20. Who is making a profit off the yellow fever?

21. Why does Matilda go to the market?

22. What does Matilda enjoy at the end of each day?

23. Why hasn’t Matilda received a letter from her mother?

24. Why does Matilda need a lawyer to make Eliza a full partner of the coffee house?

25. What event sparks a massive return of the people to Philadelphia?