

**2017-2018 ELCA Summer Reading and Writing Assignment  
ALL Upcoming Juniors and Seniors**

**Randy Alcorn's *Safely Home***

As you are reading Alcorn's *Safely Home*, consider the following topics/questions. Upon completion of your reading, you are to complete well-written compositions. **Upcoming seniors** are to select and discuss **four** of the following topics in well-written compositions. **Upcoming juniors** are to select and discuss **three** of the following topics in well-written compositions. **Each topic** should be the subject of **its own separate composition**. Your writings will be assessed with the rubric noted below. The summer writing assignment is **due on the first day of school** (July 31).

Topic 1: **MORALITY** – Do the characters live within any moral constraints or boundaries? Does the book give any indications of the basis for this morality? In other words, if the characters' behavior is moral, then *why* is it moral? Are the boundaries portrayed in a negative and destructive light, or are they seen as positive and healthy? How?

Topic 2: **CONSEQUENCES** – Are there consequences for characters who break these moral boundaries? Is this a universe where justice is performed and characters know that justice is performed, or is there a bleaker outlook? Defend your opinion.

Topic 3: **RESONANCES** – Which Christian worldview concepts exist as resonances in the novel (e.g. human nature being both dignified and fallen, the possibility of redemption, the possibility of grace and generosity)? How does Randy Alcorn develop these themes?

Topic 4: **AGENDAS** – Are there clues to Randy Alcorn's agenda in writing this book? Are there any worldviews that the book deliberately seeks to advocate or to undermine and call into question? Is there a "moral of the story"? Defend your opinion.

Topic 5: **CHRISTIANITY** – Were Christianity or Christians portrayed in the novel *Safely Home*? Were these portrayals fair, credible, or realistic? Are there aspects of this portrayal that Christians should learn from or deeply consider? Does Christianity come into conflict with any other religion in the story? Defend your opinion.

**Consider** the aspects of the assessment rubric **as you proofread** your compositions.

<b>90-100 points</b>	<b>80-89 points</b>	<b>70-79 points</b>	<b>0-69 points</b>
--over 15 sentences per topic -- no errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage -- flawless MLA citations -- The thesis statement is clear and concise, stating the author's position on the topic. -- <u>Skillfully blends</u> evidence from the text by using <b>both direct quotes</b> and <u>paraphrases</u> . --paper is typed, double-spaced, with size 12 font	--at least 15 sentences per topic --no more than three errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage --no more than one MLA error -- The thesis statement describes the author's opinion about the topic. -- Cites evidence from the text by using <b>both direct quotes</b> and <u>paraphrases</u> . --paper is typed, double-spaced, with size 12 font	--at least 10 sentences per topic --no more than five errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage --no more than three MLA errors -- The thesis statement merely answers the prompt but does not express author's view --attempts textual support -- Cites evidence from the text by using <b>either quotes or paraphrases</b> . --paper is not entirely typed, double-spaced, or in size 12 font	--fewer than 10 sentences per topic --more than five errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, or usage -- more than three MLA errors -- The thesis statement does not give information about what will be discussed or the author's opinion on the subject. --little to none -- Does <b>not reference</b> text evidence. --What? We had to type this paper? 