COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY: *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry is represented by the abbreviation **MC**. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first lines of the week’s daily course plan. The specific daily assignments are outlined in the following lines indicated by the **MON**, **TUES**, **WED** and **THUR** abbreviations. The chapter study questions, chapter vocabulary and glossary are located in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklets available for purchase from Kolbe Academy. Answers should be given in complete written or oral sentences. We suggest reading the weekly written assignment to the student at the beginning of the week. The student should write the assignment down on a note card (to be used as a bookmark) so that he can think about the assignment as he reads. The written assignments are suggested to be started on Thursday after the reading is done and completed by the following Monday. As the teacher, be sure to review the final exam now to ensure all concepts are covered with your student as he reads the book. All the Final Exam questions will be taken from the notes listed in these course plans and the Study Questions in the Elementary Literature Study Question booklet.

*Misty of Chincoteague* is a fictionalized version of real events (see Mrs. Henry’s introductory note). It recounts the efforts of two determined children, Paul and Maureen Beebe, to obtain and own the pony they love. In the end, however, their very love for the Phantom and her foal, Misty, leads them to make a difficult choice.

**Extra Credit.** The following are some topics that could be used as extra credit for this book. Answers are at the end of the Assignment Answer Key in this course plan.

1. In what year was the first Pony Penning Day held? Why? How much money did it make? In which years was the celebration skipped?
2. What are some other books that author Marguerite Henry and illustrator Wesley Dennis worked on together? Name five.
3. Check out the Misty Foundation at [www.chincoteague.org/misty](http://www.chincoteague.org/misty). Why was it established, and by whom?

**Characters**

- **Paul Beebe**, a boy with a keen insight into horses, and a deep desire to own a particular wild pony—the Phantom, whom no one yet has been able to capture.
- **Maureen Beebe**, Paul’s sister, who helps him and shares in his plan.
- **Clarence (Grandpa) Beebe**, Owner of Pony Ranch, the children’s grandfather and, in many ways, their best friend.
- **Ida (Grandma) Beebe**, Clarence’s wife and grandmother to Paul and Maureen who, along with Grandpa, is caring for the children in their parents’ absence.
- **The Phantom**, the wild mare that Paul has his heart set on.
- **Misty**, the Phantom’s foal, who becomes Paul and Maureen’s pony in the end.
- **Pied Piper**, Misty’s father and the leader of the band of mares to which the Phantom belongs.
- **The Fire Chief**, the Chincoteague official in charge not only of the fire house, but of Pony Penning Day and the big race as well.
- **Wyle Maddox**, Paul’s leader during the pony roundup.
**WEEK 1**

**MC**

Chapter 1-Chapter 4. Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 1-4 in the glossary prior to reading. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed.

**Written assignment:** Is the tale of the wreck of the *Santo Cristo* really the way the wild ponies came to live on Assateague Island? No one can say for sure, and there are various theories. Describe two other explanations for the existence of the Assateague herd. Which theory do you favor, and why? Express your answer in two paragraphs (one describing the theories, the other defending one of them). Use this web page as a starting point for your research: www.assateagueisland.com

**MON**

Read Chapter 1 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 1, Live Cargo! Set long before the time of our story begins, this chapter tells the tale of how wild ponies came to be living on the island of Assateague in the first place. A Spanish galleon called the *Santo Cristo* sinks, stranding the surviving ponies on a nearby island. No one ever came to reclaim them, and their descendants—so the story goes—are the very ponies living on Assateague still.

**TUES**

Read Chapter 2 and 3 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 2, Island of the Wild Things. The ponies take to their new environment, enjoying its advantages and meeting its challenges head on. Chapter 3, The Phantom. Paul and Maureen Beebe, exploring Assateague, find what they believe to be a piece of the wrecked ship, and catch sight of the Phantom—a wild mare who has given the slip to the roundup men for two Pony Penning days in a row. The children secretly plan to capture and buy her.

**WED**

Read Chapter 4 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 4, Sacred Bones. Grandpa Beebe returns to the children and explains to them the history of Pony Penning Day. His description of other attempts to tame wild ponies—not that his grandchildren have divulged to him their reason for asking—is not encouraging.

**THUR**

Complete the written assignment in 2 paragraphs, due Monday.

**Notes**

**WEEK 2**

**MC**

Read Chapter 5-Chapter 10. Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 5-10 in the glossary prior to reading. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed.

**Written assignment:** What is the last thing Grandpa says, before Paul rides off on Watch Eyes for the big roundup? Why does this turn out to be important?

**MON**

Read Chapter 5 and 6 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 5, A Piece of the Wind and Sky. Paul and Maureen put their plan into action by doing some serious fundraising. They halter break Grandpa’s colts. They tread for clams. They ask for a stall for the Phantom, and at this point their...
plans are made known. Grandpa expresses doubt about anyone being able to capture her in the first place, but gives them permission to ready the stall anyway. **Chapter 6, Pony Penning Day.** The big day arrives. Paul rides with the men, crossing the channel to Assateague by ferry. Sent to chase a straggler, Paul realizes that he is actually after the Phantom herself, and that—what is more—she is trailed by a brand-new foal.

**TUES**
Read Chapter 7 and 6 and answer Study Questions. **Chapter 7, She Can’t Turn Back.** To the admiration of all, Paul brings in the Phantom and her foal safely back with the other captured ponies at Tom’s Point. Still, the hazardous swim across the channel to Chincoteague still lies ahead. **Chapter 8, Caught in the Whirlpool.** Paul saves the Phantom’s foal, whom he has mentally begun calling “Misty,” from drowning during the crossing.

**WED**
Read Chapter 9 and 10 and answer Study Questions. **Chapter 9, On to the Pony Penning Grounds.** After Paul is sent home to rest, Maureen and Grandpa see the Phantom and Misty on safely to the place where the ponies are kept. Grandpa tries again to talk the children out of purchasing the Phantom, but fails. The children go to the Pony Penning grounds that evening, to watch the big race. **Chapter 10, Colts Have Got to Grow Up.** Paul has a close encounter with the Pied Piper, the stallion to whose band the Phantom belongs. The children keep their promise to look over other colts for sale, and feel sorry for them. They also try to talk to the Fire Chief about their plans for Misty and her mother, but they are interrupted and the Fire Chief never finds out.

**THUR**
Complete the written assignment in 2 paragraphs, due Monday.

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**WEEK 3**

**MC**
Chapter 11-Chapter 14. Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 11-14 in the glossary prior to reading. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed.

**Written assignment:** How do Misty and her mother get into Grandpa’s horse trailer? What does this say about Grandpa himself?

**MON**
Read Chapter 11 and 12 and answer Study Questions. **Chapter 11, Storm Shy.** As Black Comet wins the big race, a thunderstorm breaks. Paul takes shelter in Grandpa’s horse trailer, with the Phantom and Misty for company. **Chapter 12, The Sold Rope.** The next morning, with Paul at home resting, Maureen is charged with the duty of finding the Fire Chief and purchasing the ponies. But tragedy has struck. The Phantom and Misty have already been sold!

**TUES**
Read Chapter 13 and answer Study Questions. **Chapter 13, A Pony Changes Hands.** The festivities pass, with the young Beebes in a daze of disappointment. But on Saturday, the man who originally purchased the Phantom and Misty reappears, wanting to back out of the bargain. The ponies are Paul’s and Maureen’s at last!

**WED**
Read Chapter 14 and answer Study Questions. **Chapter 14, The Wickie.** Misty is gentled. With more trouble and patience, the Phantom is, too.

**THUR**
Complete the written assignment in 2 paragraphs, due Monday.
### WEEK 4

| **MC** | **Chapter 15-Chapter 18.** Have the student look up all the vocabulary words for Chapters 11-14 in the glossary prior to reading. Study questions may be completed as the student reads or at the end of the week when reading has been completed. **Written assignment:** When the Pied Piper comes to get the Phantom, Maureen tells Paul to hang on to her. Why doesn’t Paul do so? Mention at least two things Paul and Maureen have noticed in the past, telling them that the Phantom isn’t really at home on Chincoteague. |
| **MON** | **Read Chapter 15 and 16 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 15, The Fire Chief Pays a Call.** Paul and Maureen discuss, but can’t quite come to terms with, the fact that the Phantom will never really be happy until she is wild again. The Fire Chief comes to Pony Ranch to ask the Beebe children to do something they’ve been planning to do all along—namely, run the Phantom in the big race. **Chapter 16, The Pully Bone.** Paul wins a wishbone pull determining whether he or Maureen shall ride the Phantom in the big race. |
| **TUES** | **Read Chapter 17 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 17, Wings on Her Feet.** Paul and the Phantom win! |
| **WED** | **Read Chapter 18 and answer Study Questions. Chapter 18, A Wild Bugle.** Pied Piper swims the channel from Assateague to get his mare back. While the others want to hold the Phantom back, Paul elects to let her go. The Phantom is free again, where she belongs. Grandpa, Paul, and Maureen return to Misty, the children’s own pony who is never to be sold. |
| **THUR** | Complete the written assignment in 2 paragraphs, due Monday. |

### WEEK 5

| **MC** | **Written assignment:** Congratulations! You have finished reading Misty of Chincoteague. Now you need to write a nice book report on the story. |
| **MON to WED** | **Written Assignment.** Work on your book report. Review your paper to make sure everything you have written supports your thesis statement, and the entire paper has a gentle flow from one supported idea to the next. Check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. Rewrite the paper neatly if you are writing it in long hand. |
| **THUR** | **Study for the Final Exam.** Review all your Study Questions, the vocabulary, and the characters. |
| **FRI** | **Final Exam.** |
WEEK 1:

Written Assignment: Other theories about the origin of the wild ponies on Assateague include the idea that they are descended from domesticated ponies that were put on the island for the good grazing found there. Support for this theory comes from the fact that it constitutes the official explanation of the United States government. Backing up the idea that the ponies came from a shipwreck as oral tradition holds, there is the fact that the remains of a Spanish galleon have been located offshore. Answers will vary, based on this information.

WEEK 2:

Written assignment: What is the last thing Grandpa says, before Paul rides off on Watch Eyes for the big roundup? Why does this turn out to be important?

The last thing Grandpa tells Paul is, “And you, Paul! Obey yer leader, no matter what!” Paul listens to Grandpa and that turns out to be a very good thing in the end. When Wyle Maddox sends Paul and Watch Eyes to chase a straggler, Paul’s “face reddened with anger.” Paul thought that obeying Mr. Maddox would ruin his chances of rounding up the Phantom. Still, he did obey, and the straggler turned out to be the Phantom herself! If Paul had chosen not to obey, he would not have caught the very pony he came in search of.

WEEK 3:

Written assignment: How do Misty and her mother get into Grandpa’s horse trailer? What does this say about Grandpa himself?

It turns out that Grandpa has put Misty and her mother into his trailer himself, and judging by the condition of his face and shirt, this was no easy task. Once, again, Grandpa shows his love for and support of his grandchildren. Even though he does not agree with their desire to own the Phantom, he respects it, and he takes care of the ponies that are special to his grandchildren for their sakes.

WEEK 4:

Written assignment: When the Pied Piper comes to get the Phantom, Maureen tells Paul to hang on to her. Why doesn’t Paul do so? Mention at least two things Paul and Maureen have noticed in the past, telling them that the Phantom isn’t really at home on Chincoteague.

Answers will vary. The basic reason Paul lets the Phantom return to Assateague is that he realizes she will never be happy on Chincoteague, and he loves her enough to want her to be happy. Indicators of the pony’s unhappiness include the fact that she will not wear a bridle like other horses, the way she leans over the fence looking towards Assateague, her shunning by the other ponies in Grandpa Beebe’s herd, and her enjoyment of running and nothing else.

Extra Credit. The following are some topics that could be used as extra credit for this book.

1. In what year was the first Pony Penning Day held? Why? How much money did it make? In which years was the celebration skipped? (See www.beach-net.com/chincoteague/ponypage1.html)

Pony Penning Day was first held in 1924. Chincoteague had been hit with several serious fires, and the celebration was conceived as a way of raising money for better fire-fighting equipment (this explains, by the way, why the Fire Chief is the character in the story who is in charge of the event). Just over four dollars was earned. Today, a single pony can go for thousands of dollars! No Pony Penning Day was held in 1942 and 1943, because of the waging of World War II.
2. What are some other books that author Marguerite Henry and illustrator Wesley Dennis worked on together? Name five.

The Henry/Dennis team made a historical impact on children’s literature in America. Although each worked with others (Mrs. Henry with other illustrators, Mr. Dennis with other authors and on books he wrote himself), it was their combined talents that produced a corpus of generally horse-centered historical fiction that has enchanted countless young readers, and introduced them to the world of horses, history, and books. The books Marguerite Henry and Wesley Dennis worked on together include:

- Stormy, Misty’s Foal
- Sea Star, Orphan of Chincoteague
- King of the Wind
- Justin Morgan Had a Horse
- Born to Trot
- Brighty of the Grand Canyon
- Black Gold
- Album of Horses
- Album of Dogs
- Five O’Clock Charlie
- Benjamin West and His Cat Grimalkin
- White Stallion of Lippizza

3. Check out the Misty Foundation at www.chincoteague.org/misty. Why was it established, and by whom?

The Misty Foundation was established in 1990 by Marguerite Henry herself and a fan of the Misty books named Rebecca Giusti. Its purpose is to purchase the property that was once the Beebe Ranch on Chincoteague, and to establish an archive of Henry/Dennis works there, so that children everywhere will better be able to appreciate the Misty legacy in the future.
Part I. Plot Elements. Plot refers to the events in a story, or what happens. Arrange the following plot elements from *Misty of Chincoteague* in the order in which they occurred. (3 points each)

1. Misty steals the hat of a visitor at Pony Ranch.
2. The sailors on the *Santo Cristo* furl the topgallant sail.
3. Grandpa says that the delicious dinner at Pony Penning Day tastes to him like bran mash.
4. The map on the Phantom’s withers grows smaller and smaller until it disappears into the surf.
5. Misty falls asleep with her head in Paul’s lap.
6. Grandma says she’d be willing to pay ten dollars more for a mannerly colt.
7. The man with the binoculars tells the crowd that the boy who has jumped into the water is Paul.
8. Maureen brings the money to the Pony Penning grounds and tries to buy the Phantom and Misty.
9. Grandpa tells the children about the unsuccessful efforts of a boy a while ago, who tried to train a wild pony to pull a plow.
10. The shipwrecked ponies climb safely onto the sandy shores of Assateague Island.

Part II. Character. The characters are the people or other actors (such as ponies) in a story. Write in the name of the character being described. (3 points each)

1. __________ has Maureen lay an extra place at the table, in case a “human straggler” comes along.
2. Paul is angry when __________ sends him away from the other roundup men, to chase a wild horse that has gotten separated from the rest of the herd.
3. Until the Phantom comes along, no pony is able to beat __________ in the big race.
4. __________ explains to Paul and Maureen why colts have got to be separated from their mothers.
5. Mr. Foster sells the Phantom and Misty to Paul and Maureen because __________ doesn’t want them any more.
6. __________ lets Paul and Maureen have a stall for the Phantom, even though he doesn’t believe they will ever own her.
7. Although __________ can’t see the Spanish galleon her brother is imagining, she asks him to describe it to her anyway.
8. __________ would not have survived the swim across the channel, without Paul’s help.
9. __________ tells Maureen to keep her voice down, in the presence of a very testy Pied Piper.
10. When the children first catch sight of her, __________ tries to run away from the herd, but the Pied Piper brings her back.
Part III. Vocabulary. If the italicized vocabulary word is being used correctly in the sentence, write yes on the line. If not, write no. (2 points each)

1. ________ “The Phantom and Misty have already been sold,” Maureen announced gleefully.
2. ________ In order not to frighten them, Paul and Maureen used a scow to lead the Phantom and Misty around.
3. ________ The Phantom, Misty, and the Pied Piper are all pintos.
4. ________ When Grandpa was particularly hungry, Grandma served him warm butter beans and squall.
5. ________ The onlookers cheered as Paul and the Phantom crossed the finish line first.
6. ________ As Paul and Watch Eyes followed, something they were pursuing disappeared into a thicket.
7. ________ Grandpa used a whinny to trim his pony’s hooves.
8. ________ Because she couldn’t go on the roundup herself, Maureen stayed home and played with dolls and mounting blocks.
9. _____ Paul and Maureen considered saving up money, so they could eventually go to college on the mainland.
10. ________ “Paul and Maureen, a storm’s coming up,” Grandma called out. “Go and close those shudders!”

Part IV. Essay. One theme (or message) of the book Misty of Chincoteague is that hard work and determination are needed in order to achieve one’s goals. Name at least three times when Paul and Maureen might have been tempted to abandon their dream of owning the Phantom. Express your answer in the form of a paragraph. (20 points).
Part I. Plot Elements.  The events should be numbered in the following order:
   2, 10, 9, 6, 7, 5, 8, 3, 1, 4

Part II. Character.
   1. Grandma Beebe
   2. Wyle Maddox
   3. Black Comet
   4. The fire chief
   5. Freddy
   6. Grandpa Beebe
   7. Maureen
   8. Misty
   9. Paul
   10. The Phantom

Part III. Vocabulary
   1. No
   2. No
   3. Yes
   4. No
   5. Yes
   6. Yes
   7. No
   8. No
   9. Yes
   10. No

Part IV. Essay Question. One theme (or message) of the book *Misty of Chincoteague* is that hard work and determination are needed in order to achieve one’s goals. Name at least three times when Paul and Maureen might have been tempted to abandon their dream of owning the Phantom. Express your answer in the form of a paragraph. (20 points).

   Answers will vary. Possible responses include the time they heard Grandpa tell of other people who tried to gentle wild ponies and failed, when they had to give up their spare time to do so many money-making chores, when they told their plan to Grandpa and he was not in favor of it, when they went and looked at all the other available colts, when they discovered they had to buy two ponies and only had enough money for one, and when they saw how much trouble the men at the Pony Penning grounds were having with the Phantom.