

2019-20 Middle School Summer Reading

For rising 5th graders

Dear Parents,

It's Summer Vacation! You Can't Be Serious!

Studies have shown that reading and writing over the summer can enhance or maintain a child's academic abilities going into the following school year. Without practice, there can actually be a lapse in some skills and information that is useful for the first month of school in the new year.

Reading Assignments:

For children entering 5th grade, there are **two assignments to complete** over the summer. Students are asked to select and read **two** chapter books of high interest.

Writing Assignments:

- In the first week of school, 5th graders will share a *written summary* of one of the books they have read over the summer.
- And for the second book, they will present an OYO (On Your Own) presentation depicting a scene or character from the book they read. An OYO presentation could be:
 - A scene depicted in a diorama (shoebox)
 - A comic strip depicting a chapter or scene in novel
 - A diary entry written from a character's perspective
 - A letter written as one character to another character in the novel
 - A re-enactment of a scene from the novel recorded into a 2 minute video
 - A poster with characters' personalities listed under the visual representation of each character
 - A poster with scenes from the novel depicted in a sequential format
 - A re-enactment of a scene through 'puppet' style depictions
 - Dress as a character from the book and allow a Q&A style interview with the class

2019-20 Middle School Summer Reading

For rising 6th graders

Read a TON over the summer! Read things you love! Read, read, and read some more! So that we can begin the year with some shared conversations about our reading, the **two required books to complete before the first day of school include:**

***Pax* by Sara Pennypacker**

“Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own.”

***Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor**

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect.

Writing Assignments:

Before, during, and after reading, think about the following Essential Questions for 6th Grade Language Arts and how these questions apply to the novels. **Keep a reading journal and respond to the following questions as you are reading each of these novels. Bring your reading journal with you to school the first day! You may write your answers by hand in a notebook or type them and print them out to bring with you.**

1. Where do the main characters in these stories feel most at home? Why?
2. What different groups do the main characters in these novels belong to?
3. What brings about change in the main characters' lives?
4. What are the main characters' core values or belief systems?
5. What is power, and who has it in each of these stories?
6. What is wealth, and who has it in each of these stories?
7. Why do characters move from place to place in each of these stories?
8. Why do characters fight or struggle in each of these stories? What do they want?
9. What impact does the environment have on the characters in these stories?
10. Is being a good citizen a theme in these stories? How do you know?

We will begin the school year sharing our thoughts and your journal entries in response to your answers to these questions. Have a great summer!

AS ALWAYS, EXTRA INDEPENDENT READING IS ENCOURAGED! Please keep track of all books you read. In 6th LA, extra reading = extra credit.

2019-20 Middle School Summer Reading

For rising 7th graders

This summer, you will travel back to the world of ancient Greece in preparation for our study of myths and epics. To bring the Greek pantheon to life, you will complete a 3-part assignment.

PART ONE – First, read the following selections:

- Evslin's *The Greek Gods* pages 3 - 54 (Ms. Mushkin's summer reading packet)
- *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
- *The Odyssey*, as retold by Geraldine McCaughrean
- Optional: Ken Jennings's *Junior Genius Guide: Greek Mythology* (in reading packet). This is a fun reference and will help you remember the various gods.

PART TWO – Watch the movie *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* and complete the 2 movie/book guides.

The *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* DVD is \$4 on Amazon or can be rented through Amazon or YouTube. After watching the movie, complete **BOTH** of the following charts from the reading packet:

- "Book and Movie Comparison/Contrast Guide"
- "Thinking Critically about the Movie Adaptation: Effects and Preferences"

PART THREE – Complete ONE of the following book projects:

OPTION 1: Book Poster – Make a book poster for *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* (similar to a movie poster, but reflecting the characters, setting, and plot of the book). The book poster should be *at least* 12x16 in size and must include the following:

- a quote as a subtitle (with page #) that accurately reflects the theme and/or plot
- colorfully illustrated/printed images of the characters/setting/plot that grab the reader's attention
- plot structure visual with exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution
- the name of the author and a rating for the book

OPTION 2: iMovie Book Trailer – Make an iMovie (or similar program) trailer for the book (similar to a movie trailer, but reflecting the characters, setting, and plot of the book). The trailer should be *at least* 3 min. long and include the following:

- theme related to the book (clearly described and highlighted)
- plot structure elements (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution)
- a variety of special effects (music, slide transitions, etc.)
- a description/depiction of the main characters (may include costumed "actors" or may be digitally created)
- a quote as a subtitle (with page #) that accurately reflects the theme and/or plot
- the name of the author and a rating for the book

AS ALWAYS, EXTRA INDEPENDENT READING IS ENCOURAGED! Please keep track of all books you read. In 7th LA, extra reading = extra credit. The list below includes the rising 8th graders all-time favorite books.

2019-20 Middle School Summer Reading

Book List for Rising 7th Graders

7th Grade LA class selections are not included. The maturity level of these books varies.

<p>Fantasy <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> <i>Ash and Bramble</i> <i>Elsewhere</i> <i>Graceling</i> <i>Howl's Moving Castle</i> <i>Mistborne</i> <i>Rose and Thorne</i> <i>Timebound</i> <i>The Bridge to Terabithia</i> <i>The Hobbit</i></p>	<p>Dystopian <i>Children of Eden</i> <i>Cinder</i> <i>Death Cure</i> <i>Matched</i> <i>NIL</i> <i>Siren</i> <i>The 100</i> <i>Thunderhead</i></p>	<p>Realistic Fiction <i>All in Pieces</i> <i>Capture the Flag</i> <i>Chomp</i> <i>Dreamland</i> <i>Flush</i> <i>Fly Girl</i> <i>Glass Throne</i> <i>Out of My Mind</i> <i>Rain Reign</i> <i>Skink No Surrender</i> <i>Solo</i> <i>Stargirl</i> <i>Star-crossed</i> <i>Tiger Rising</i> <i>Windfall</i> <i>Wonderstruck</i></p>
<p>Historical Fiction <i>A Night Divided</i> <i>Bud Not Buddy</i> <i>Code of Honor</i> <i>Prisoner B-3087</i> <i>Refugee</i> <i>The Girl in the Blue Coat</i></p>	<p>YA Realistic Fiction <i>All the Broken Pieces</i> <i>Eleanor and Park</i> <i>If I Stay</i> <i>Looking for Alaska</i> <i>Me Before You</i> <i>P.S. I Like You</i> <i>The Boy in the Black Suit</i> <i>The One and Only Ivan</i> <i>The Poet X</i> <i>Turtles All the Way Down</i> <i>When You Reach Me</i> <i>3rd Twin</i> <i>9th Ward</i></p>	<p>Series <i>Divergent series</i> <i>Harry Potter series</i> <i>Legend series</i> <i>Magnus Chase series</i> <i>Maze Runner series</i> <i>Nancy Drew series</i> <i>Percy Jackson series</i> <i>Selection series</i> <i>Series of Unfortunate Events</i> <i>The Land of Stories series</i> <i>The Name of this Book is a Secret</i> <i>Trials of Apollo series</i> <i>Warrior series</i></p>
<p>Memoir/Biography <i>The Boys on the Boat (YA version)</i> <i>Unbroken (YA version)</i></p>	<p>Suspense <i>By Your Side</i> <i>Carve the Mark</i> <i>One of Us is Lying</i> <i>Memory Book</i> <i>Scorch Trials</i></p>	<p>Graphic Novel <i>American Born Chinese</i> <i>Amulet</i> <i>Smile</i> <i>Spinning</i></p>

2019-20 Middle School Summer Reading

For rising 8th graders

Reading is a fundamental building block in your quest to develop a deeper and more powerful understanding of the world around you. As an added bonus, research consistently highlights the point that reading is one of the best pathways toward better writing skills. So, let's not let our break time go to waste, spend some time reading, thinking, and writing.

Assignment One:

Choose a book from the NPR or NYPL books for teens and complete the following assignment: Write a letter (at least one page) from the point of view of one of the characters to someone else in the book, written after the story has ended. Make sure to use the format of a letter and include a greeting and a signature. You can write the letter however you want, as long as it shows your understanding of the story and ideas about the character. If you're not sure what to write about, you might want to include the following:

- your character's hopes and fears for him/herself
- your character's hopes, fears, or questions for the person s/he's writing to
- questions your character still wonders about
- your character's thoughts on what s/he learned or accomplished in the book
- his/her plans for the future

Assignment Number Two:

Choose a book of your own. Write a letter about it to your future teacher, in which you do the following things:

- Begin with a greeting.
- In no more than 5-7 sentences, summarize the main events of the book.
- Describe two main characters: what are they like? how do you know? would you be friends with them? why or why not?
- Ask two questions about the book — things you're still wondering about; then do your best to predict the answers.
- What connections can you make between this book and your life, other books, or events in the world?
- End your letter with your final thoughts, including your opinion of the book.

Book Selection Resources

You have **two** choices to make for your summer reading selections.

- First, use the list* of *Best Books for Teens* list from National Public Radio or The New York Public Library to guide your choice. You can access the list via this link:
<https://apps.npr.org/best-books-2018/#/tag/young-adult>
<https://www.nypl.org/books-music-dvds/recommendations/best-books/ya>
- The second selection is a free choice book. You are welcome to use the NPR list as a guide if you see another book that looks interesting. But, the main guide with this second selection is that YOU choose it based on your own personal interest.
- *This list includes a wide variety of books to appeal to the interests and reading levels of many students. Parents are encouraged to review book selections with their children in order to help them make appropriate choices.