Summer Reading

Now that it’s summer, you have time to relax, lay back, and read a new book!

Requirements:

• During summer break you are required to read ONE book. Before each intersession you will be told by your teacher what genre or type of book to read. You may choose any chapter book within that genre.

• Before returning from summer, you will choose and complete one activity from the activity list (next page).

Directions:
• Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th, grade students:
  o Choose one fiction book that you find interesting or would like to read.
  o Read the book!
  o Complete one of the following activities before returning from break.
  o Bring with you on the first day of school.
Intersession Reading Response Activity List

1. **Timeline**: Create a timeline of the events in the novel. Include pictures and captions for the pictures. You must have at least 15 events.

2. **Make your own test**: Create a test about the story. Include multiple choice and short answer questions.

3. **Picture this**: Find art related to book's time or themes, take a picture of it and then write about how it relates to the book.

4. **Draw**: Create a storyboard cartoon of the most important chapter of the book. Explain its importance to the book’s plot.

5. **Dear diary**: Keep a diary as if you were a character in the story. Write down events that happen during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why.

6. **What if**: Write about how the story would be different if the characters were someone other than they are: a teacher or other professional, another gender, a different age.

7. **Found poetry**: Take sections of the story and, choosing carefully, create a “found poem” by using words from the story.

8. **Personal ad**: What would a particular character write in a personal ad for the newspaper? Write the ad and then write a response to the ad as if someone answered it.

9. **Holden Meets Hamlet**: What would one character (or set of them) in one story say to another if given the chance to talk or correspond? Write a dialogue, skit, or letter.

10. **Fill in the blanks**: Find a "hole" in the story where the character disappears (off camera) for a time and describe what they do when we can't see them.

11. **Time machine**: Instead of traveling into the book, write a scene or story in which the character(s) travel out of the book into today.

12. **Second chance**: Write about how it would change the story if a certain character had made a different decision earlier in the story (e.g., what if Huck of Huckleberry Finn had not run away?)

13. **Dear classmate**: Using email or some other means of corresponding, write someone who is reading the same book as you, having a written conversation about the book. You must work with someone who is reading the same book. Bring the writing to school for proof of doing the activity.

14. **Sing me a song**: Write a song/ballad about the story, a character, or an event in the book.

15. **Write your own**: Using the themes in the story, write your own story, creating your own characters and situation. It does not have to relate to the story at all aside from its theme.

16. **Executive summary**: Take a 3x5 card and summarize what happened on one side. On the other, analyze the importance of what happened and the reasons it happened. Do 5 cards.

17. **Create a diorama**: Create a diorama of a particularly important scene and on the back of the diorama write a one page report explaining the scene and why it is important to the story.

18. **Newspaper connection**: Read the newspapers and magazines to find articles that somehow relate to issues and ideas in the book(s) you are reading. Write why those articles relate to your book.

19. **Open mind**: Draw an empty head and inside of it draw any symbols or words or images that are bouncing around in the mind of the character of a story. Follow it up with writing to explain and explore responses.

20. **P.O.V.**: How would a part of the story change if you rewrote it in a different point of view (e.g., changed it from first to third person)? Try it!
Suggested Book List:

- Pick a book that interests YOU!
- Go to your local library or bookstore to find a book that makes you excited to read.
- If you are having a hard time picking one, below are some suggestions.
- Books are put in order based on reading level. Within each genre the books are ordered from low to high. The number in parenthesis does not reflect the grade level or reading level for the book.

**Comedy**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley’s Journal by Jeff Kinney

- Life in Middle School
- Greg records his sixth grade experiences at his middle school. Greg and his best friend, Rowley (undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily), hope just to survive. When Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.
- 1st of series (May read others in series)

Schooled by Gordon Korman (4.0)

- Accepting others
- Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie. When she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.
How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O’Connor (4.4)
  • Poverty and Self Esteem
  • Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. She has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (6.1)
  • In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.
  • Sequel: Love Stargirl.

Paul Bucking the Sarge by Christopher Curtis (7.1)
  • Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother’s shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighborhood Group Home for Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.
Realistic Fiction

Rules by Cynthia Lord
• (2008 California Young Reader Medal Nominee) Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

Godless by Pete Hautman (4.8)
• When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

Heartbeat by Sharon Creech (5.1)
• Poetry & Rhymes
• Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of her life the year her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.
Journey of the Sparrow by Fran Leeper Buss & Daisy Cubias (6.3)
• Friendship
• Maria, her older sister Julia, and small brother, Oscar, are illegal aliens, having been smuggled into the U. S. nailed in crates and shipped in the back of a coyote's truck. They are Salvadorans from a peasant village whose men have been openly murdered or "disappeared." The climactic moment arrives when Maria must make a dangerous return trip to Mexico to get her baby sister, who was left in the care of friends along the way.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Raws (6.4)
• Billy and his precious coonhound pups romp relentlessly through the Ozarks, trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. When the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy, Billy grieves but learns the beautiful old Native American legend of the sacred red fern.

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (7.1)
• Parent Advisory: May not be appropriate for younger readers.
• Since the beginning of the school year, high school freshman Melinda has found that it's been getting harder and harder for her to speak out loud. Could it be due to the fact that no one at school is speaking to her because she called the cops and got everyone busted at the seniors' big end-of-summer party?
The Crossing by Gary Paulsen (7.1)
- Friendship
- Manny is a small Mexican street boy in Juarez. Manny is an orphan who survives by using his wits and his speed against other desperate boys. He struggles against the evil street men who would kill or sell him, against starvation and death. Manny has only one chance to survive, and that means crossing the river into the United States. This will be an incredibly dangerous undertaking for a small boy alone.

Kiss Me Tomorrow by Susan Shreve (7.2)
- Love Story
- Blister was there for Jonah when he was the new student that everyone loved to hate. Blister was there for Jonah when he lied and said he was a big TV personality. Blister was right alongside Jonah when he turned his lie into a real job at a television station, complete with his very own show. Jonah is in trouble once again, and he's looking to Blister to be more than just a friend....

Homecoming by Cynthia Voight
- Abandoned by their mother, four children begin a search for a home and an identity.
Whale Talk, by Chris Crutcher

- When football star Mike Barbour bullies brain-damaged Chris Coughlin for wearing his dead brother's letter jacket, T.J. hatches a scheme for revenge. He assembles a swim team (in a school with no pool) made up of the most outrageous outsiders and misfits he can find and extracts a conditional promise of those sacred letter jackets from the coach.

**Adventure/Mystery/Suspense/Horror**

The Invention of Hugo Cabret  by Brian Selznick  (5.2)

- (2008 Caldecott Medal Winner, 2007 National Book Award) Hugo is a twelve-year-old Hugo orphan who is repairing clocks and living in a Paris train station in 1931. When he meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Flight # 116  Is Down by Caroline B. Cooney  (6.7)

- Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

- “You can’t stop the future. You can’t renew the past. The only way to learn the secret is to push PLAY!”
- Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life.

Historical Fiction

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages (4.5)

- Friendship
- (2007 Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction) While her father works on the Atomic Bomb, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

Royal Diaries: Elizabeth I, Red Rose of the House of Tudor by Kathryn Lasky (4.8)

- Set in 1544 in medieval England, Princess Elizabeth keeps a diary of her experiences of courtly life. This is the same court that once ordered the beheading of her mother.
Tree Girl by Ben Mikaelsen (5.8)
• Gabriela witnesses the destruction of her Mayan village and the murder of nearly everyone while hiding in her favorite tree. Gabriela vows never to climb again. After she and traumatized sister find safety in a Mexcian refugee camp, she realizes that only by climbing and facing their fears can she and her sister hope to have a future.

Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Breen (6.9)
• Love Story
• Minutes before the train pulled into the station in Jenkinsville, Arkansas, Patty Bergen knew something exciting was going to happen. German prisoners of war have arrived to make their new home in the prison camp in Jenkinsville. To the rest of her town, these prisoners are only Nazis. But to Patty, a young Jewish girl with a turbulent home life, one boy in particular becomes an unlikely friend.

Farewell to Manzanar by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (7.8)
• Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at Manzanar internment camp with 10,000 other Japanese Americans. This is the true story of one spirited Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention.
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan (3.4)
- 1st of Series (May read others)
- Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. Lately, being away at boarding school is getting worse. Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from...

Maximum Ride by James Patterson (4.2)
- 1st of series (The Angel Experiment)
- Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "Flock." Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel are just like ordinary kids—only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time

Snakehead by Anthny Horowitz (5.3)
- Alex Rider crash lands off the coast of Australia where he is recruited by the Australian Secret Service to infiltrate one of the ruthless gangs operating across Southeast Asia. In the midst of his dangerous mission, Alex discovers information about his parents' murder.
Dragonwings by Laurence Yep (6.1)
- Moon Shadow was eight years old when he left China to join his father in San Francisco's Chinatown. After a few years of living in the Chinese community, Moon Shadow and his father moved to a stable behind a boarding house, where Windrider builds his flying machine and Moon Shadow will be safe from street violence.

Twilight - by Stephanie Meyer
- Teen Romance
- 1st in the Series (May Read others in series)
- About three things I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was a part of him, and I didn't know how dominant that part might be, that thirsted for my blood. Third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him.

Uglies by Scott Westfield
- Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can’t wait. Not for her license-for turning pretty. In Tally’s world, your sixteenth birthday brings an operation that turns you from a repellent ugly into a stunningly attractive pretty.