



Summer Reading Requirements
Lower School
2017-2018

A guide for students entering the 4th and 5th grades

Reading proficiency, fluency, and comprehension are essential to meeting the goals and expectations of the English and Literature classes. We want to encourage our students to be lifelong readers and learners.

Use the guidelines below to respond to your summer reading books.

You are required to read three (3) books over the summer. Two books are from the required list and the third can be chosen from the additional list for each grade level.

4th Grade Required	5th Grade Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Lemonade Wars</i> by Jacqueline Davis ● <i>Way Down Deep</i> by Ruth White 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Watsons Go To Birmingham</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis ● <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>, by Madeleine L'Engle
Additional Books for 4th	Additional Books for 5th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Out of My Mind</i>, Sharon M. Draper ● <i>The Cricket in Times Square</i>, George Selden ● <i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i>, Scott O'Dell ● <i>On the Banks of Plum Creek</i>, Laura Ingalls Wilder ● <i>A Year Down Yonder</i>, Richard Peck ● <i>The Story of Ruby Bridges</i>, Robert Coles ● <i>The Underneath</i>, Kathi Appelt ● <i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh</i>, Robert C. O'Brien ● <i>The Prince and the Pauper</i>, Mark Twain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The Voyage of the Froog</i>, Gary Paulsen ● <i>Number of the Stars</i>, Lois Lowry ● <i>I Am the Ice Worm</i>, Mary Ann Easley ● <i>Bread and Roses, Too</i>, Katherine Patterson ● <i>On the Wings of Heroes</i>, Richard Peck ● <i>A Boy No More</i>, Harry Mazer ● <i>Airborn</i>, Kenneth Oppel ● <i>Chasing Vermeer</i>, Blue Balliett ● <i>Maniac Magee</i>, Jerry Spinelli

Writing Assignment and Response Guidelines

The writing assignments and responses are below. You will complete three assignments that will be due on the 5th day of class. Each novel will be represented in three different assignments; (1) Response Paper, (2) Illustrated Timeline, and (3) a Book Jacket.

1. **Response Paper:** Choose one book in which to respond in writing. Follow the *Response Paper Format* section when completing your paper. These questions serve as a guide for the journey through the texts, as well as for class discussions. Students should write their responses as they read or immediately after they read the texts during the summer.

2. **Illustrated Timeline:** Complete one illustrated timeline for your second novel. You must illustrate 10 different scenes from the book. Your illustrations must be in the proper order of the book. You should

also show the character and events of importance throughout your story. Be sure to include a written explanation of why you chose each scene and how it relates to the theme of the the novel. Illustrations should be in color; no stick figures will be accepted. Remember, your project must include plot events, character descriptions, and themes from your book.

3. **Book Jacket:** Complete one book jacket for your third novel. This must be your own design (do not duplicate the original book jacket). Your project must include plot, events, character description and themes from your book. Create a colorful, engaging book jacket that includes the following:
 - Cover: new cover for the book with illustration, title, author, and student name.
 - Inner Flap: (Left Side) Summarize the key events from the reading. Discuss the major characters and personalities.
 - Inner Flap: (Right Side) Describe one text connection (text to text, text to self, or text to the world).
 - Back Cover: Describe the theme of the novel. Make sure to support your description with specific examples from the story.

Note: Do not use Cliffsnotes, Sparknotes, Shmoop, movies, abridged versions, or any other substitute/aid materials.

Response Paper Format:

There are four questions listed below to help you format the papers. Students should have an introduction and conclusion for each paper. Each question’s response should be one paragraph. Open each paragraph with a topic sentence. Support the topic sentence with examples and analysis, and conclude the paragraph with a summary sentence. The paper will be a total of 6 paragraphs.

Questions:	Explanation:
What is the book about?	Write a brief summary of the book. Remember to begin your paragraph with a topic sentence (main idea of the paragraph). The next few sentences should include the main events of the story and the last sentence of your paragraph should be a concluding statement.
What were your connections between the text and your prior experience or knowledge?	Was there anything in the book that you read that you were familiar with already (life experiences, history class, other books, television, discussions with parents, etc.)? If not, what ideas were new to you (characters or fictional places, but personalities, experiences, the time period, etc.?)
To which character did you most strongly respond and why?	Did you like or dislike a particular character in the book? Explain your answer. Describe his/her personality. What was it about them that you admired or disliked? If you did not feel anything about the character, explain why you think he/she did not make an impression on you.
As you read the book, how did it change a view you previously had?	Describe how it revealed something new to you whether it is about life in general or about yourself. Did you change your mind about anything after you read the book? Explain. Did you learn anything new from reading the book? Explain. Did you just enjoy reading about a familiar subject? How was it already familiar to you?