



Middle School Summer Reading and Writing

Dear Families,

This summer we are going to ask each middle school student to read one book from the Non-Fiction list and one book from the Fiction list. The Middle Schoolers will also be required to keep a writing journal. For the writing journal, you must pick at least five of the topics that follow and also complete the assignment for one of the books in your journal. We have tried to vary the reading levels to include all students. If there is a book your student wants to read, e-mail the teacher with the author and title. We want everyone to read and make it as enjoyable as can be!

Mrs. Bruce and Mr. Conley

6th grade

Non Fiction

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World By:
Armstrong, Jennifer
Black Potatoes by: Bartolettie, Susan Campbell
Heaven Is for Real by: Burpo, Todd
The Life and Death of Crazy Horse by: Freedman
Russell Zlata's Diary by: Filipovic, Zelta

Fiction:

How to Survive Middle School by: Giphart, Donna
Crispin: The Cross of Lead by: Avi
A Wrinkle in Time by: L'Engle, Madeline
The Lost Hero by: Riordan, Rick
My Side of the Mountain by: George, Jean
Craighead

7th Grade

Nonfiction:

Music by: Ardley Neil
Fighting For Honor by: Michael L. Cooper
Uncommon Champions: Fifteen Athletes Who
Battled Back by: Mary Kaminsky and Bobby Valentine
Longitude by: Dava Sobel
The Cod's Tale by: Mark Kurlansky

Fiction:

The False Prince by: Jennifer Nielsen
Wonder by: R.J. Palacio
The Sea Wolf by: Jack London
White Fang by: Jack London
The Outsiders by: S.E. Hinton
I, Robot by: Isaac Asimov

8th Grade

Non Fiction

Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That
Changed America Forever by: Bill O'Reilly
Friday Night Lights: A Town, a Team, and a Dream
by: H.G. Bissinger
After Gandhi: One Hundred Years Of Nonviolent
Resistance by: Anne Sibley O'Brien
Gettysburg: The True Account Of Two Young Heroes
In The Greatest Battle Of The Civil War by: Iain C.
Martin
Sugar Change The World: A Story of Magic, Spice,
Slavery, Freedom, and Science by: Marc Aronson

Fiction:

Enders Game by: Orson Scott Card

The Maze Runner by: James Dashner

The House on Mango Street by: Sandra Cisneros

Of Mice and Men by: John Steinbeck

The #1 Ladies Detective Agency by: Alexander McCall Smith



Summer Journal Ideas

Create a summer writing journal, decorate it anyway you'd like. In the journal you are to complete the book assignment, a weekly Journal entry and respond to at least 5 of these prompts:

Book Assignment

You are to compose a five paragraph essay about the novel that you have selected from the list.

Paragraph 1

Introduce the book that you choose by including the title, author, and why you choose this book.

Paragraph 2

Describe the novel's setting and characters. Be specific and include many details.

Paragraph 3

Give a brief summary of the many points of the novel.

Paragraph 4

Describe the theme (message) of the book.

Paragraph 5

Summarize the book and tell whether or not you enjoyed the book and if you would recommend the book to others. Be specific as to what you liked/ did not like.

Journal Writing Prompt Ideas

Writing Prompt 1:

Summer Photo Inspiration: When do you feel the arrival of summer has come? When school lets out? In mid-June? On the first day that reaches 85 degrees? Does summer assert itself into being just by calendar days or by other environmental factors too?

Writing Prompt 2:

Write about one of the five senses (related to your summer experience):

☐ The smells of summer

☐ The sights of summer

☐ The sounds of summer

☐ The touch of summer

☐ The tastes of summer

Writing Prompt 3:

What is your favorite summer memory? How old were you when it happened? For 10 minutes relive that memory through writing about it as if you were right there recording it in real time.

Writing Prompt 4:

Summertime conjures up images of full-blooming nature, fluttering butterflies, and nighttime crickets. It also reflects sweltering sheets, stagnant heat, and restless nights where flipping over a cool pillow are the only way to survive. Write a poem that captures a summer evening's essence in all of its beauty or beast-ness.

Writing Prompt 5:

This windmill is from an early 1900s guest riding ranch in the Chiricahua National Monument Mountains in Southern Arizona. Can you imagine how visitors spent long summer days riding horses through the steep mountain hills and valleys? What does this remind you about your favorite outdoor summer activities?

Writing Prompt 6:

Do you like the summer heat or do you spend most of your time in the cool, air-conditioned indoors? How do you think people coped with the heat before air

conditioning and electric fans were invented?

Writing Prompt 7:

Did you ever climb trees when you were a child? How high did you go? Did you ever fall out of the tree? And how did the thick, full-leaved tree branches during summer insert themselves into your childhood play?

Writing Prompt 8:

Summer Photo Inspiration Full, green thriving trees. Some trees are a hundred or more years old. Imagine living through 100 years of summers, watching families picnic, children play, outdoorsmen fish, and hikers blaze the trails. Imagine you are one of these trees. What have you seen in your vision of history?

Writing Prompt 9:

Imagine the weather gods suddenly decided that the summer season would be no more. Seasons would go from Spring to Fall to Winter. What does that prospect invoke in you? Are you happy? Sad? Glad? Mad?

Writing Prompt 10:

Summer flowers are one of nature's most beautiful works of art. What other natural art does summer bring forth from the earth, sea, or sky?

Writing Prompt 11:

What do you think the symbolism of summer is in relation to the human life span?

