

Dear Language Arts Students,

One of the primary benefits of reading books is its ability to develop critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills are crucial when it comes to making important day to day decisions. The more you read, the deeper your understanding becomes about what you're reading and its application. The purpose of this summer work is to help prepare you for your upcoming language arts class. This work will tap into your prior knowledge around the elements of fiction as well as sharpen your skills as a reader. Summer Work will be due on Friday, September 7, and will count as 3% of your first Trimester Grade. Summer work WILL NOT be accepted after September 12th .

Have a great summer!

ELA Summer Assignment:

Directions:

Please choose one of the following options below based the novel you selected from the grade specific book list. The Book list is attached.

1. Keep a Journal in the Voice of a Character from the Book: Choose a character from your novel. Follow the events of the novel and give your chosen character's impressions and reflections on those events. For example, a character might have been sad after the loss of a friend, but how would she write about that in a journal? What thoughts are racing through her mind? Who does she turn to for support? Is there any anger or frustration in her voice? Pick this project if you feel like the book's characters really came alive for you.

Grade 6: 3 entries (include 2 elements of fiction: character//setting//plot//theme)

Grade 7: 4 entries (include 3 elements of fiction)

Grade 8: 4 entries (include all 4 elements of fiction)

2. Write A Summary: Be sure to include important events (plot), major characters, the setting (time and place) and any themes you identified in the book. The last paragraph should be a review of the book: did you like it? Who would you recommend it to? What was your favorite part? Choose this project if you enjoy writing about what you've read.

Grade 6: 3 paragraphs

Grade 7: 4 paragraphs

Grade 8: 5 paragraphs

3. Create a Film Poster for Your Book: Imagine that your book has been made into a movie. How would you create a poster that shows something significant about the plot and/or theme of the story while simultaneously attracting a big audience? What famous actors would best play the roles? Who would direct it? **On the back of your poster, you should include a review of the book. This review should be at least one paragraph in length and highlight your favorite parts.** Pick this project if you think of yourself as a film buff or pop culture know-it-all.

Grade 6: focus on the plot (events within the story) and characters

Grade 7: focus on the plot, characters, and setting

Grade 8: focus on character, setting, plot, and theme(s)

4. Make a Mini-Movie About Your Book: If you're lucky enough to have advanced movie making software (like iMovie, for instance) on your computer, feel free to create a masterpiece. If not, don't worry. If you have Windows, chances are you have [Movie Maker](#) without even knowing about it. If it's your first time making a movie on the computer, think about downloading [Microsoft's Photo Story](#). It's free and simple to use and has enough features (photo effects, neat transitions,

the ability to add music) that you can create a pretty cool product. Choose this project if you dream about being the next Steven Spielberg or George Lucas.

Grade 6: focus on the plot and characters

Grade 7: focus on the plot, characters, and setting

Grade 8: focus on character, setting, plot, and theme(s)

5. Give a Book Talk: Here's your chance to hook your classmates and introduce them to a book you read this summer.

Prepare a 3-5 minute book talk. Be sure to include the following information: title, author, genre, hook (a short description of the book using sensory imagery), a few details about the setting, a 2-3 sentence plot summary, a few pieces of information about the main characters, and a conclusion (tell why others should read this book). You'll share your book talk in the first week of school in LA. Choose this project if public speaking is something you enjoy!

Grade 6: focus on the plot and characters

Grade 7: focus on the plot, characters, and setting

Grade 8: focus on character, setting, plot, and theme(s)

All projects must include:

- Your full name
- Novel title
- Novel author

Project due date: Friday, September 7th

Grading: **This assignment is worth 3% of your Trimester 1 grade.**

	100	85	75	65
Effort and Content Knowledge	Significant effort shown Content knowledge shows depth of understanding	Some effort shown Content knowledge shows understanding	Little effort shown Content knowledge shows partial understanding	No effort shown Content knowledge not shown
Other Requirements	Submitted on time Editing is flawless or near-flawless Work is complete	Submitted on time Editing is accurate in most areas Work is mostly complete	Submitted late but made up within 1 week Editing needs improvement Somewhat complete	Submitted more than a week late Editing needs significant improvement Half or less of assignment is complete

6th Grade Suggested Summer Reading List

While you are welcome to read any book you would like for the summer reading, we (your 6th grade LA teachers) would like to recommend some books that students have really enjoyed this year.

Quick Pick Options

***The Spiderwick Chronicles: Book 1 The Field Guide* By: Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black**

The Grace children discover a field guide to fairies in their Great Aunt Lucinda's old Victorian house that sends them on a fantastic journey into a world of elves, dwarves, and trolls.

Any "I Survived" Series Book: *I Survived The Eruption of Mount St. Helens, 1980* By: Lauren Tarshis

On May 18, 1980, eleven-year-old Jessie Marlowe and her best friends, Eddie and Sam, are in a forest near Mount St. Helens when the months of wondering whether the volcano will erupt are finally answered--all three are badly burned, but it is up to Jessie to protect the boys as best she can and hope that somebody comes to rescue them.

***Ella Enchanted* By: Gail Carson Levine**

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

***Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* By: Bruce Coville**

Small for his age but artistically talented, twelve-year-old Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a **dragon's** egg.

***Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep* By: Gail Carson Levine or Any book in this series**

In this retelling of the fairy tale Sleeping Beauty, Princess Sonora, who is ten times smarter than anyone else, vows to choose for herself the best time to be pricked by the spindle.

***Road Trip or Field Trip* By Gary Paulsen**

A father and son embark on a **road trip** to a distant animal shelter to save a homeless border collie puppy.

Ben and his twin classmates, Charlotte and Jacob, are missing a school field **trip**, so Ben's father takes them, his new apprentice Brig, and the dogs on an adventure during which Ben manages to try out for a hockey academy against his parents' wishes, and the twins turn the **road trip** into a learning experience.

***Sheep* By: Valerie Hobbs**

After a fire destroys the farm where he was born, a young border collie acquires a series of owners and learns about life as he seeks a home and longs to fulfill his life's purpose of shepherding sheep.

***Snicker of Magic* By: Natalie Lloyd**

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend, Jonah the Beedle, she hopes to bring the magic back.

***The One The Only Ivan* By Katherine Applegate**

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

***Three Time Lucky* By Sheila Turnage**

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

Intermediate Options

***11 Birthdays* By: Wendy Mass**

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.

***A Crooked Kind of Perfect* By Linda Urban**

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.

Alex Rider Series: *Stormbreaker (First Book)* by Anthony Horowitz

After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

***Artemis Fowl Series* By Eoin Colfer**

Twelve-year-old evil genius Artemis Fowl tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, but the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* By Chris Grabenstein**

"Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape"--Provided by publisher.

***Harriet the Spy* By: Louise Fitzhugh**

When Harriet's classmates find her diary and read what she has written about them, they decide to make life miserable for her.

***I Funny: A Middle School Story* By: James Patterson**

Jamie Grimm tries to win the Planet's Funniest Kid Comic Contest, while also dealing with his stepfamily, friends, and a school bully.

***Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* By: Jack Gantos**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

***Max Quigley: Technically Not A Bully* By: James Roy**

After playing a prank on one of his "geeky" classmates, sixth-grader **Max Quigley's** punishment is to be tutored by him.

***Out of My Mind* By: Sharon M Draper**

Considered by many to be mentally delayed, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

***The Landry News* By Andrew Clements**

A fifth-grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.

Any Book by Gary Paulsen

Accelerated Options

***Adventures of Tom Sawyer* By Mark Twain**

The famous tale of a boy's life in a small town on the banks of the Mississippi River. Tom skips school and has some incredible adventures with his friends Huckleberry Finn and Joe Harper - some real enough, others not quite. They go off and live like pirates on an island, are presumed dead, and return just in time for their own funeral. They witness a murder, and discover treasure beyond their wildest dreams.

***Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery**

Anne, a young orphan from Bolingbroke, Nova Scotia, is sent to Prince Edward Island after a childhood spent in strangers' homes and orphanages. Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, siblings in their fifties and sixties, had decided to adopt a boy from the orphanage to help Matthew run their farm. They live at Green Gables, their Avonlea farmhouse on Prince Edward Island. Through a misunderstanding, the orphanage sends Anne Shirley.

***Hobbit* by J.R. R. Tolkien**

A great modern classic and the prelude to *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.

***The Golden Compass* By: Philip Pullman**

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

***Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963* By: Christopher Paul Curtis**

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

***Wildwood* By Colin Meloy**

Prue's life shifts from ordinary to extraordinary when her baby brother is kidnapped by a murder of crows and she must embark into the Impassable Wilderness, a dense forest in the center of Portland, Oregon, with her friend Curtis in tow, where the pair will encounter warring creatures, peaceful mystics, and other dark-minded, powerful figures.