

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. Paper copies can be brought to school next Fall or electronic copies can be submitted to : 7thGradeELA@timberlane.net

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

7th Grade Summer Reading Ideas

The Enemy (Charlie Higson)

In the wake of a devastating disease, everyone sixteen and older is either dead or a decomposing, brainless creature with a ravenous appetite for flesh. Teens have barricaded themselves in buildings throughout London and venture outside only when they need to scavenge for food. The group of kids living in a supermarket is beginning to run out of options. When a mysterious traveler arrives and offers them safe haven at Buckingham Palace, they begin a harrowing journey across London. But their fight is far from over; the threat from within the palace is as real as the one outside it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgP-mkpk9Rg>

Peak (Roland Smith)

The only thing you'll find on the summit of Mount Everest is a divine view. The things that really matter lie far below. – Peak Marcello

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father, who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. *Big* strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit--and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

Roland Smith has created an action-packed adventure about friendship, sacrifice, family, and the drive to take on Everest, despite the incredible risk. The story of Peak's dangerous ascent—told in his own words—is suspenseful, immediate, and impossible to put down.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx6CDTNhVPo>

Soldier Dog (Sam Angus)

With his older brother gone to fight in the Great War and his father prone to sudden rages, fourteen-year-old Stanley devotes himself to taking care of the family's greyhound and puppies...until the morning Stanley wakes to find the puppies gone. Determined to find his brother, Stanley runs away to join an increasingly desperate army. Assigned to the experimental War Dog School, Stanley is given a problematic Great Dane named Bones to train. Against all odds, the pair excel, and Stanley is sent to France.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2aJjMmg3Y4>

Lost Hero (Rick Riordan)

Jason has a problem. He doesn't remember anything before waking up on a school bus holding hands with a girl. Apparently she's his girlfriend Piper, his best friend is a kid named Leo, and they're all students in the Wilderness School, a boarding school for "bad kids." What he did to end up here, Jason has no idea--except that everything seems very wrong.

Piper has a secret. Her father has been missing for three days, and her vivid nightmares reveal that he's in terrible danger. Now her boyfriend doesn't recognize her, and when a freak storm and strange creatures attack during a school field trip, she, Jason, and Leo are whisked away to someplace called Camp Half-Blood. What is going on?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsquP0gehj4>

One for the Murphys (Lynda Hunt)

A moving debut novel about a foster child learning to open her heart to a family's love...

Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family

life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong--until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-6URCgYq0s>

Buddy (M.H. Herlong)

Tyrone "Li'l T" Roberts meets Buddy when his family's car accidentally hits the stray dog on their way to church. Buddy turns out to be the dog Li'l T's always wished for--until Hurricane Katrina comes to New Orleans and he must leave Buddy behind. After the storm, Li'l T and his father return home to find a community struggling to rebuild their lives--and Buddy gone. But Li'l T refuses to give up his quest to find his best friend. From the author of the BBYA Top Ten selection *The Great Wide Sea* comes a powerful story of hope, courage, and knowing when to let go.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLGgPIV1070>

The Bystander (James Preller)

Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular.

But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: He's a liar, a bully, and a thief. Eric wants to break away and do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander . . . to the bully's next victim.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czDZ_OSidBk

Ninth Ward (Jewell Parker Rhodes)

Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. She doesn't have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane--Katrina--fast approaching, it's up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xemqME5F7Ck>

Waiting For Normal (Leslie Connor)

Addie is waiting for normal. But Addie's mom has an all-or-nothing approach to life: a food fiesta or an empty pantry, jubilation or gloom, her way or no way. All or nothing never adds up to normal. All or nothing can't bring you all to home, which is exactly where Addie longs to be everyday with her half sisters. In spite of life's twists and turns, Addie remains optimistic. Someday, maybe, she'll find normal. Leslie Connor has created an inspiring novel about one girl's giant spirit.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elc_CigqnbI

Ungifted (Gordon Korman)

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman comes a hilarious and heartfelt novel in which one middle-school troublemaker accidentally moves into the gifted and talented program—and changes everything. When Donovan Curtis pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students.

Although it wasn't exactly what Donovan had intended, the ASD couldn't be a more perfectly unexpected hideout for someone like him. But as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science (or just about anything), he shows that his gifts may be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN5UGtLlrmc>

Red Kayak (Priscilla Cummings)

In this satisfying crime and coming-of-age drama, a toddler drowns in a kayak accident after friends of teenage Brady, the victim's neighbor, vent some anger against the child's dad by drilling holes in the bottom of his craft. It was a mean-spirited prank--but no one was supposed to die. What happens now? Revealing the terrible secret would implicate Brady's friends in the drowning, and it clouds his whole world with guilt and fear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJn3dvPMiz0>

The Thing About Jellyfish (Ali Benjamin)

Everyone says that it was an accident... that sometimes things "just happen". But Suzy won't believe it. Ever. After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy was a rare jellyfish sting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHdJ-ZNTOtQ>

The War That Saved My Life (Kimberly Brubaker Bradley)

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMdH3Y2Xkeys>

Summer Ball (Mike Lupica)

When you're the smallest kid playing a big man's game, the challenges never stop—especially when your name is Danny Walker. Leading your travel team to the national championship may seem like a dream come true, but for Danny, being at the top just means the competition tries that much harder to knock him off.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lhac0ATmYOU>

Matched (Allie Condie)

Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her: what to read, what to watch, what to believe. So when Xander's face appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate . . . until she sees Ky Markham's face flash for an instant before the screen fades to black. The Society tells her it's a glitch, a rare malfunction, and that she should focus on the happy life she's destined to lead with Xander.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaeNWL8rIBI>

Hidden (Helen Frost)

Years after Darra Monson's father stole a minivan with Wren Abbott hiding in the back, the girls come face to face at summer camp and together they try to work through what happened to them and the impact it had on their lives.