

Grace Middle School Summer Reading 2021 6th Grade

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." --Margaret Fuller

In a 2009 government web cast, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan described summer learning loss as "devastating." This is what researchers have often referred to as the "summer slide." It is estimated that school summer breaks will cause the average student to lose up to one month of instruction, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected (Cooper, 1996).

Cooper, H., Nye B., Linsey J., et al. (1996). "[The Effects of Summer Vacation on Achievement Test Scores: A Narrative and Meta-Analytic Review](#) [ERIC]." *Review of Educational Research*, no. 66, 227-268.

Q: Can I borrow the book from the public library?

A: Yes, but make sure to complete your summer reading assignment before turning your book back into the library.

Q: When do I turn in my summer reading assignment and who will grade my summer reading assignment?

A: Mr. Sebek will collect your work and use the checklist to give you your first grade of the school year. Summer Reading will be assigned a grade after the first two weeks of school. All Summer Reading Assignments must be complete by Monday, September 3rd, 2021.

Q: Can I listen to the audiobooks?

A: If you do listen to the book, you should also have a copy of the book with you so that completing the assignment will be easier and you get the practice of reading along with a fluent reader of the story. You may also refer to this article about why reading from books may be better for you than reading from a screen. [Why do we remember more when we read from print vs screen?](#)

Q: What if I need help?

A: Email Mr. Sebek using your Grace School email address. He will try to get back to you within a day or so.

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Student Choice (students will read at least one novel of their choice):

Students will read at least one novel of their own choosing. We ask that this novel be at least 125 pages long. Here are some resources to help students choose what they would like to read this summer:

[Lone Star Reading List 2021](#)

[Goodreads Best Middle Grade Novels 2021](#)

Suggested Titles from students in previous Sixth Grade classes:

False Prince	The Wishing Spell
The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe	Legend
Matilda	Scythe
Dragon Rider	Thunderhead
The Lightning Thief	The Toll
Middle School, Worst Years of My Life	Ripper
Everlost	I Am Number Four
Downsiders	Wonder
Wonderstruck	Counting by 7's
Out of My Mind	The Crossover
Because of Winn Dixie	Rules
The Secret Tree	Holes
Ender's Game	The Wednesday Wars
The Compound	Dragonet Prophecy
Girl Who Could Fly	How to Train Your Dragon
Shimmer	The Westing Game
Dreamland	20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
George	Mysterious Benedict Society
Things Not Seen	

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Remember, the ultimate goal of summer reading is to help you maintain or even grow your reading and writing skills over the summer. Reading can be a relaxing, enjoyable, and even an exciting way to pass the time over the long summer months. The goal is to enjoy a balanced variety of healthy activities over the break; please make reading for fun just one of the ways you enjoy your break from school!
Summer Reading Written Assignment Skills

Purpose Statement: At Grace Middle School, students will make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other texts and society.

Directions: As you read, look for the sentence or section that jumps out at you. Write a brief note so you can remember what you were thinking. (If nothing jumps out at you by the time you have finished reading, then go back and FIND something to respond to.)

You must:

- Write at least 5-7 sentences to explain each connection.
- Give the page number, paragraph, or line number of the part you are responding to.
- Mention which type of connection (Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, or Text-to-World) you are using (see below).
- Include an illustration to show what is happening in the book and why it's important to you.
- 14 connections, 3 of each type plus 5 of your choice is required to earn an 'A.'

(See attached rubric for more information.)

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Types of Connections:

1. Text-to-Personal Experience: these are connections that we make between the text and our own life or experiences. Ask yourself the following questions to make Text-to-Self connections:

What does this remind me of in my life?
What is this similar to in my life?
How is this different from my life?
Has something like this ever happened to me?
How does this relate to my life?
What were my feelings when I read this?

2. Text-to-Ideas in Other Texts: these are connections that we make between the text we are reading and something we have read in the past. Use the following sentence starters to make these kinds of connections:

What does this remind me of in another book I've read?
How is this text similar to other things I've read?
How is this different from other books I've read?
Have I read about something like this before?

3. Text-to-Society: these are connections that we make between the text and what we know about the world around us. As you read, you may be reminded of something you saw on t.v., heard on the news, or even learned in another class. Use the following sentence stems to make text-to-world connections:

What does this remind me of in the real world?
How is this text similar to things that happen in the real world?
How is this different from things that happen in the real world?
How did that part relate to the world around me?

<p>Type of Connection: Text-to-Text</p> <p>Quote/Paraphrase: This section is about Alicia who wants to study and go to school, but her father tells her that girls are supposed to cook and clean, not go to college.</p> <p>Pg #22, Chapter 4</p>	<p>This reminds me of the article we read about Malala, the girl who was shot by the Taliban for trying to go to school. I know that there are places in the world where girls are not allowed to go to school. This must be frustrating.</p>	 A portrait of Malala Yousafzai, a young woman with dark hair, wearing a bright pink headscarf. She is looking slightly to her right with a calm expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.
<p>Type of Connection: Text-to-Society</p> <p>Quote/Paraphrase: “No, this isn’t my house I say and shake my head as if shaking could undo the year I’ve lived here. I don’t belong. I don’t ever want to come from here.”</p> <p>Pg #15, Chapter 4</p>	<p>In this part of the book, Esperanza is feeling disappointed about where she is living. It doesn’t feel like home and she is ashamed of it. It reminds me of the refugees that I hear about in the news: they have been forced to leave their homes, and the places they must live in must feel uncomfortable, strange, and ugly to them.</p>	 A wide-angle photograph of a large, sprawling refugee camp in a dry, arid landscape. The camp is densely packed with makeshift dwellings made of mud-brick and fabric. In the foreground, several people are walking across the dusty ground, and some are riding animals. The background shows a hazy horizon with distant hills under a clear sky.

Type of Connection: _____ Quote:

Pg # _____, Chapter _____

Type of Connection: _____ Quote:

Pg # _____, Chapter _____

Type of Connection: _____ Quote:

Pg # _____, Chapter _____

Type of Connection: _____ Quote:

Pg # _____, Chapter _____

	100-90	89 - 80	79 - 70	69 and below
Completeness	25 points o 14 or more entries	20 points o 10 - 13 entries	15 points o 7-9 entries	10 points or less o 0-6 entries
Variety of Connections	25 points o 3 Text-to-Self o 3 Text-to-Text o 3 Text-to-World o 5 more of your choice	20 points o >3 Text-to-Self o > 3 Text-to-Text o > 3 Text-to-World o 4 of your choice	17 points o > 2 Text-to-Self o > 2 Text-to-Text o > 2 Text-to-World o 1 more of your choice	15 points or less Connections are mostly Text-toSelf; little to no attempt has been made to make connections to other texts or the world.
Thoughtful, well explained connections	25 points o All entries are 5-7 sentences. o Connections show an effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. o The connections respond to various topics covered in the novel.	20 points o Most entries are 3-5 sentences. o Connections show some effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. o The connections respond to most topics covered in the novel.	17 points o Some entries are 3-5 sentences, but most are shorter. o Connections little effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. o The connections respond to few topics	15 points or less o Most entries are 1-2 sentences. o Connections show no effort to connect with the characters, themes and plot of the story. o The connections do not respond to the various topics covered in the novel.
Illustrations and Captions	25 Points Illustrations reflect what is happening in the story, and/or the tone/mood evoked by the author's choice of words. The illustrations chosen show the reader has made inferences and connections that go beyond a surface-level understanding of the text.	20 Points Illustrations reflect what is happening in the story, and/or the tone/mood evoked by the author's choice of words.	17 Points The visuals mostly depict characters and setting, but mainly depict a surface-level understanding of the text.	15 Points or less No visuals and/or captions/dialogue are included.

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Student Choice (students should read one of these books):

Get Organized Without Losing It by Janet Fox or

Where's My Stuff?: The Ultimate Organizing Guiding by Samantha Fox, Lesley Schwartz Martin or

The Middle School Student's Guide to Ruling the World by Susan Mulcaire or

The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond by Donna Goldberg

We ask that you read ***one of the organization books*** and be ready to apply the concepts this Fall.

Directions for Organization Book

Read the book you chose and talk with your parents about the structures and routines you plan to use to hold yourself accountable for the new responsibilities you are about to take on. Middle school is much different from lower school and having systems in place to support you will make the transition easier.