

7th Grade Summer Reading



Dear 7th Grade Families,

For the summer, we are going to focus on two of the most wonderful children's authors that I have discovered since I began teaching. The first one is the extremely talented Louis Sachar who wrote Holes. The other one is the equally talented James Dashner who wrote The Maze Runner.

I would read The Maze Runner first. It's a little tougher to comprehend, and it may take a little time to work through some of the more difficult details. We will be working with the two books in the first month of school. I suggest that students keep a notebook while they are reading the book, detailing concepts that they find confusing, as well as noting vocabulary that they think may be a little challenging.

We are also going to be reading ONE biography. It takes the form of a picture book but I think that getting to grips with biographies is difficult, and learning to work with them is a skill that we will practice throughout the year. The biography is entitled Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington by Jabari Asim. It's probably a good idea that the kids read the book numerous times during the summer because we will be looking at the picture book format and how different media are put together to create a story.

In addition to these books, I think it is reasonable to expect the students to read at least two other books over the summer. Some will read many more, but those who have issues with reading should find 5 [in total] books adequate.

I will be providing a book list from which the students can choose their additional two books. If they have already read those books, then books of their choosing are fine, as long as they are age appropriate. They need to do a book report on ONE of the books that THEY choose to read. The books reports are going to be a little more creative. I am attaching a list of options for the

book report. They are NOT to do a report on Holes or The Maze Runner or the biography. The report will be handed in on the first day of school.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. F

Book Report Ideas

Pick ONE of these and use it to report on ONE of the extra two books that you chose to read over the summer.

1. Create a sculpture of a character. Use any combination of soap, wood, clay, sticks, wire, stones, old toy pieces, or any other object. An explanation of how this character fits into the book should accompany the sculpture.
2. Give a sales talk, pretending the students in the class are clerks in a bookstore and you want them to push this book.
3. Construct a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, buildings, plants, and animals) of one of the main events of the book. Include a written description of the scene.
4. If the story of your book takes place in another country, prepare a travel brochure using pictures you have found or drawn.
5. Create a mini-comic book relating a chapter of the book.
6. Use magazine photos to make a collage about the story
7. Choose birthday gifts for one of the characters involved. Tell why you chose them
8. Pretend that you are going to join the characters in the story. What things will you need to pack? Think carefully, for you will be there for a week, and there is no going back home to get something!
9. Invite one of the characters to dinner, and plan an imaginary conversation with the person who will fix the meal. What will you serve, and why?
10. Add another character to the book. Why would he be put there? What part would he serve?

Adventure

Kit's Wilderness

David Almond

I am the Ice Worm

MaryAnn Easely

The Warm Place

Nancy Farmer

Alex Rider Series

Anthony Horowitz

The White Darkness

Geraldine McCaughrean

Kensuke's Kingdom

Michael Morpurgo

Shiloh

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Crossing

Gary Paulsen

The River

Gary Paulsen

Peak

Roland Smith

Animal Stories

Ghost Dog Secrets

Peg Kehret

The Guardians of Ga'Hoole Series

Katherine Lasky

The Leanin' Dog

K.A. Nuzum

Dogsong

Gary Paulsen

Fire Pony

Rodman Philbrick

Dramatic Fiction

Skeleton Man

Joseph Bruchac

Bloomability

Sharon Creech

Violet Raines Almost Got Struck By Lightning

Danette Haworth

Love, Aubrey

Suzanne LaFleur

Flutter

Erin E. Moulton

The Kneebone Boy

Ellen Potter

Slob

Ellen Potter

My Own Worst Enemy

Carol Sonenklar

It Only Looks Easy

Pamela Curtis Swallow

Feathers

Jacqueline Woodson

Fantasy

The Sisters Grimm Series

Michael Buckley

No Passengers Beyond This Point

Gennifer Choldenko

Ranger's Apprentice Series

John Flanagan

Tomorrow Girls Series

Eva Gray

Children of the Lamp Series

P.B. Kerr

The False Prince

Jennifer Nielsen

The Percy Jackson Series

Rick O'Riordan

The Key to Rondo

Emily Rodda

Historical Fiction

Steal Away

Jennifer Armstrong

Beyond the Western Sea – Into the Storm

Avi

Kindertransport

Olga Levy Drucker

Bull Run

Paul Fleischman

Two Tickets to Freedom

Florence B. Freedman

Weedflower

Cynthia Kadohata

Red Scarf Girl

Ji-Li Jiang

Darkness Over Denmark

Ellen Levine

Desperate Journey

Jim Martin

The Anne Frank Case

Susan Goldman Rubin

Horror

Goosebumps Series

Various Authors

Among the Betrayed

Margaret Haddix Peterson

[She has written a lot of books but they may be a little scary for sensitive readers.]

Haunted Campers

Allan Zullo

Humor

How to Survive Middle School

Donna Gephart

How Do You Spell G-E-E-K?

Julia Ann Peters

Smiles to Go

Jerry Spinelli

101 Ways to Bug Your Parents

Lee Wardlaw

Mystery

The 39 Clues Series

Various Authors

The Shakespeare Stealer

Gary Blackwood

Sport

Heat

Mike Lupica

[He has written a lot of sport related books that are worth reading]

Slam Dunk!

Sharon Robinson

7th Grade Summer Language

Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.

Carol Burnett

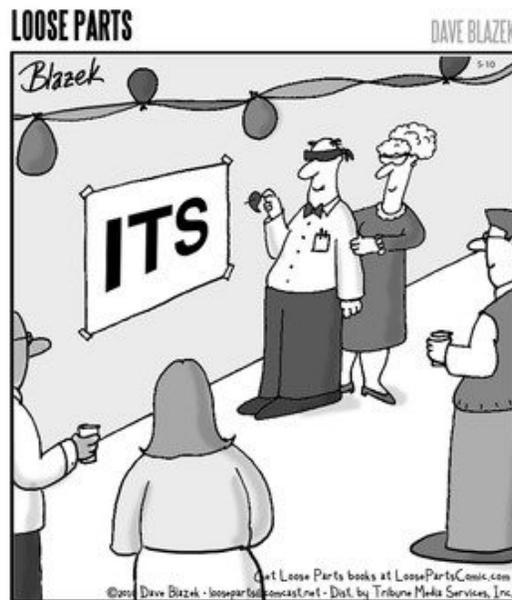
Dear 7th Grade Families,

To prevent the inevitable summer slide that occurs as a result of all the time off from school, I am providing some writing tasks for the kids to do before school begins in September. These activities should not be viewed as punishment, but rather as a way to reinforce grammatical and writing skills that they learned during the year. These are NOT optional. They need to be completed by the first day of the school year. The students can present the writing prompts in a writing journal, or in a three-ring notebook, or on loose leaf paper that is stapled together.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer.

Happy Writing!

Mrs. F



The games get pretty crazy
at English teachers' parties.

Summer Writing Prompts

It is not my aim to trap you with these writing prompts. We need to practice writing all the time. Otherwise, the skills grow stale and we start to lose our abilities. These prompts need to be completed on loose leaf paper.

1. If you could suddenly give yourself a talent that you don't presently have, what would it be?
2. If you had to choose between being ugly and rich or beautiful and poor, which would you choose? Give the reasons for your choice.
3. If someone offered you a million dollars to swim in a tank for five minutes with a great white shark, would you do it? Why or why not?
4. How do you think the recycling and conservation methods you adopt today will make the world better for your children?
5. Did you ever have a day where everything went wrong? Describe this day from start to finish.
6. Can you name three famous people who have inspired future generations by their achievements? It could be a historical figure, a scientist, a sports figure, etc. Tell me more about these people.
7. Can you think of a holiday you'd like your school to recognize that it doesn't already? Besides having a day off from school, suggest some ways your school might honor the day.
8. If you were magically granted three wishes to make a family member's life better, what would you wish for them?
9. If you were stranded on a desert island and you could only take one character from a book with you, who would you take?
10. We get angry with ourselves for lots of reasons. When was the last time you were angry with yourself? What was the reason?
11. What was your favorite place to play when you were small? What did you do there? [This place could be inside or outside.]

12. Name two jobs that you think have a high stress level. Would you consider working at either of these jobs?
13. What do you think poet Ralph Waldo Emerson was referring to when he said: 'We boil at different degrees?'
14. What's the best dream you ever had? Describe it.
15. If you could wish yourself to be transported anywhere in the world right now, where would you go?