

# Grades 6 - 8 Summer Reading Work

## Summer 2022-2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Summer is almost here! At the School of the Cathedral, we believe that summer is a crucial time to keep our students engaged in learning and to prevent the “summer slide”. This summer slide can be avoided by ensuring that children are as engaged as possible in whatever they choose to read — the goal is to read everyday!

Please find the page (below) pertaining to the grade your child will be entering in Fall 2022. Each page has grade specific information about reading during the summer. All reading and note-taking are due on the first day of school.

Reading over the summer should be fun and encompass a variety of high interest books at your child’s reading level. We encourage your child to also read through different mediums — print books, audiobooks, ebooks, magazines, newspapers, reading to a sibling, etc.

**\*\*\*ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN UP FOR A PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD\*\*\***  
(Link is available on the school website)

Sincerely,

Grades 6 & 7:  
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Grade 8  
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# Incoming 6th Grade Summer Work

1. **Book #1:** *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer (Young Readers Edition)

\*\*\*MUST BE PURCHASED (not borrowed) AS IT WILL BE USED IN CLASS.

While you read, focus on the **CHARACTERIZATION** of William. Ask yourself these questions:

1. What are the character's desires?
2. How does the character struggle as a result of her/his desires?
3. What are the personality traits of the character?
4. How does the character view herself/himself?
5. How do others view the character?
6. What do you think about the character's choices?
7. How do the character's personality traits affect her/his choices?
8. What is important to the character? Why?
9. What relationships and objects are important to the character? Why?
10. What do you think about the relationships between characters?
11. What is learned about the main characters through secondary characters?
12. Why did the character act this way?
13. Was it right or wrong for the character to act this way? Why?
14. What did the character get from acting this way?
15. How am I like or unlike the character?
16. How do the character's desires and struggles reveal the author's message?

When you find an answer to one of these questions, write it on a sticky note and stick it in your book on the page where it occurs.

**We will be writing about the characterization of William at the beginning of the school year.**

2. **Book #2 and #3:** Your Choice

Choose one fiction and one non-fiction book on your reading level. You will be sharing about and discussing your books during the first weeks of school.

# Incoming 7th Grade Summer Work

## 1. Book #1: *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed

\*\*\*NOVEL MUST BE PURCHASED (not borrowed) AS IT WILL BE USED IN CLASS\*\*\*

While you read, focus on **SETTING AND CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT**. Ask yourself these questions:

1. How does the setting put the story in context?
2. How does the setting impact the character and contribute to the mood of the story?
3. How would you describe the type of conflict(s) within the story?
  - person against person
  - person against self
  - person against nature
  - person against time
  - person against society
  - person against fate
4. How does the conflict develop?
5. What actions or events lead to the conflict's resolution?
6. How does the resolution bring a natural, thought-provoking, and / or surprise ending to the story?

When you find an answer to one of these questions, write it on a sticky note and stick it in your book on the page where it occurs.

**We will be writing about the conflict in *Amal Unbound* at the beginning of the school year.**

## 2. Book #2 and #3: Your Choice

Choose one fiction and one non-fiction book on your reading level. You will be sharing about and discussing your books during the first weeks of school.

# Incoming 8th Grade Summer Work

1. **Book #1:** *It's the End of the World and I'm In My Bathing Suit*  
by Justin A. Reynolds

\*\*\*NOVEL MUST BE PURCHASED (not borrowed) AS IT WILL BE USED IN CLASS\*\*\*

While you read, focus on **THEME DEVELOPMENT**. Ask yourself these questions:

1. What enduring understandings or essential questions arise from this story?
2. What are the big themes or lessons learned within this story? What's the gist?
3. How have the lessons learned changed the way I think?
4. What details in the story support the theme?

Remember: The theme of a story is the moral, lesson, or message. It is NOT the main idea, which tells what the story is mostly about.

When you find an answer to one of these questions, write it on a sticky note and stick it in your book on the page where it occurs.

**We will be writing about theme development in *It's the End of the World and I'm In My Bathing Suit* at the beginning of the school year.**

2. **Book #2 and #3:** Your Choice

Choose one fiction and one non-fiction book on your reading level. You will be sharing about and discussing your books during the first weeks of school.