

Grades 6 - 8 Summer Reading Work
Summer 2024-2025
Google Classroom for grades 6,7,8
Code: 2vu2opd

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!**

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. If the book or medium is not interesting to your child, try something new. There is no commitment so explore all the endless opportunities reading can bring!

Please find the page (below) pertaining to the grade your child will be entering in Fall 2025. Each page has grade specific information about reading during the summer. All **reading, note-taking, or writing** is due on the first day of school.

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

Sincerely,

Grades 6 & 7:
Angela Barton
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Grades 7 & 8:
Randi O'Connor
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“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” - Margaret Fuller

Incoming 6th Grade Summer Work

REQUIRED NOVEL

1. Book #1 - *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer (Young Readers Edition)
2. Book #2 - Black Eyed Susan choice book. List at the end of this doc.

NOVEL MUST BE PURCHASED (not borrowed from the library) AS IT WILL BE USED IN CLASS **IN THE FALL**

While you read, focus on the **CHARACTERIZATION** of William. Ask yourself these questions as you read **and take notes in the margins of your book or on sticky notes in that spot. Highlight portions of the text that demonstrate his character development:**

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?

Reading Assignments:

1- When you finish reading *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, write 2 paragraphs about the characterization of William. Using your notes, choose 2 adjectives to describe William.

Your first paragraph should explain one character trait. Use 2 examples of textual evidence for support.

Your second paragraph should explain the second character trait. Use 2 examples of textual evidence for support. Begin your paragraphs with a topic sentence and end with a conclusion sentence.

Your writing should be your original work and should not contain anything searched or generated on the internet.

Please see Google Classroom (code at the top of this document) for a rubric.

2- When you have finished reading your Black Eyed Susan choice book, complete the book review posted on Google Classroom.

Incoming 7th Grade Summer Work

REQUIRED NOVEL

1. Book #1 - *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
2. Book #2 - Black Eyed Susan choice book. List at the end of this doc.

NOVEL MUST BE PURCHASED (not borrowed from the library) AS IT WILL BE USED IN CLASS

While you read, focus on **SETTING AND CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT**. Ask yourself these questions as you read: **and take notes in the margins of your book or on sticky notes in that spot. Highlight portions of the text that show setting and conflict development**

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.

Reading Assignments:

1- When you have finished reading *Amal Unbound*, identify 2 different conflicts that Amal faces.

Write a paragraph about each. Use textual evidence to support your claims and analyze and explain how each quote from the book proves the conflict. Begin with a topic sentence and end with a conclusion sentence.

Your writing should be your original work and should not contain anything searched or generated on the internet.

See Google Classroom (code at the top of this document) for a rubric.

2- When you have finished reading your Black Eyed Susan choice book, complete the book review posted on Google Classroom.

Incoming 8th Grade Summer Work

REQUIRED NOVEL

1. Book #1 - *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
2. Book #2 - Black Eyed Susan choice book. List at the end of this doc.

NOVEL MUST BE PURCHASED (not borrowed from the library) AS IT WILL BE USED IN CLASS

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

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 *The Outsiders* at the beginning of the school year.

Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Summer Work YOUR CHOICE

2. Book #2 - Black Eyed Susan choice book.

<https://www.maslmd.org/black-eyed-susan-book-award>

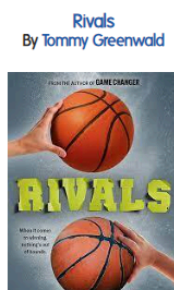
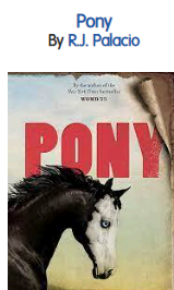
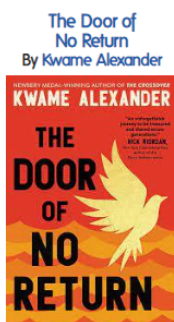
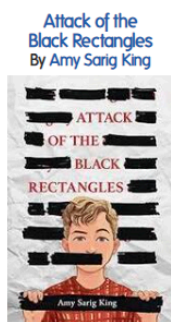
Below are options from the nominees for chapter books. You may choose from those books listed or you may select a different novel from the website. You may select from the current nominees, the most recent winners, or past winners. **Your choice book should be a novel (chapter book) not a graphic novel or a novel in verse.** The high school list of novels is also available if you are ready to challenge yourself. **Make sure you fully understand whichever book you select because you will be sharing about it and discussing your book during the first weeks of school.**

When you have finished reading your Black Eyed Susan choice book, complete the book review posted on Google Classroom. Your book review should be your original work and should not contain anything searched or generated on the internet. You should proofread your work prior to submitting as spelling, grammar, and mechanics will be taken into account.

Suggested chapter books from the Black Eyed Susan nominees:

Concealed by Christina Diaz Gonzalez • *Harboring Hope: The True Story of How Henny Sinding Helped Denmark's Jews Escape the Nazis* by Susan Hood • *Hunters of the Lost City* by Kali Wallace • *The Midnight Children* by Dan Gemeinhart • *The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne* by Jonathan Stroud • *The Probability of Everything* by Sarah Everett • *Serwa Boateng's Guide to Vampire Hunting* by Roseanna A. Brown • *Simon Sort of Says* by Erin Bow • *Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz • *What Happened to Rachel Riley?* by Claire Swinarski •

Some Other Options Listed Below:



The Secret Battle of Evan Pao
By Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Troublemaker
By John Cho

Violets Are Blue
By Barbara Dee

When the World Was Ours
By Liz Kessler

Yonder
By Ali Standish

