

Grades 6 - 8 Summer ELA Work
Summer 2025-2026
Google Classroom for grades 6, 7, 8
Code: k66o6wlt

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Summer is officially 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 - *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
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 NEEDS TO BE ANNOTATED AND WILL BE USED DURING CLASS***

While you read, focus on **SUMMARIZING** and **COMPREHENSION**. At the end of EACH chapter, use a sticky note to write a quick summary. On the note, include:

- SOMEBODY - Who is the main character or focus of the chapter?
- WANTED - What did the character want?
- BUT - What was the issue or problem or conflict?
- SO - What did the character do in response?
- THEN - How did the chapter end? OR What happened next?

At the end of the book, answer the following questions about the **CHARACTERIZATION** of Ally. Write thoughtful answers on looseleaf paper in pen. Check your writing for spelling and grammar. Do not type your answers. Your handwritten work is due on the first day of school.

1. How does the Ally view herself at the beginning of the book and as the book progresses?
2. How do other characters view Ally?
3. What do you think about Ally's actions/ thoughts/ decisions?
4. What does Ally learn throughout the novel?

Incoming 7th Grade Summer Work

REQUIRED NOVEL

1. Book #1 - *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt
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 NEEDS TO BE ANNOTATED AND WILL BE USED DURING CLASS***

While you read, focus on **SUMMARIZING** and **COMPREHENSION**. At the end of EACH chapter, use a sticky note to write a quick summary. On the note, include:

- SOMEBODY - Who is the main character or focus of the chapter?
- WANTED - What did the character want?
- BUT - What was the issue or problem or conflict?
- SO - What did the character do in response?
- THEN - How did the chapter end? OR What happened next?

To prepare for the writing below, **ANNOTATE** your book as you read.

- Circle any unknown vocabulary words
- Highlight any information that helps you better understand the conflicts happening in the story
 - This could include: character's thoughts, character's actions, events that cause tension, anything that shows how problems are developing or being resolved

After you have finished reading, answer the following questions about **CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT**. Write thoughtful answers on looseleaf paper in pen. Check your writing for spelling and grammar. Do not type your answers. Your handwritten work is due on the first day of school.

1. What internal conflict does Winnie face after meeting the Tucks, and how does it change as the story progresses?
2. How does the man in the yellow suit create an external conflict in the story?
3. What different perspectives do the Tuck family members have about immorality, and how does this create tension within the family or story?
4. How does Winnie's decision at the end of the novel resolve the conflicts she has faced?

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 NEEDS TO BE ANNOTATED AND WILL BE USED DURING CLASS***

While you read, focus on **SUMMARIZING** and **COMPREHENSION**. At the end of EACH chapter, use a sticky note to write a quick summary. On the note, include:

- SOMEBODY - Who is the main character or focus of the chapter?
- WANTED - What did the character want?
- BUT - What was the issue or problem or conflict?
- SO - What did the character do in response?
- THEN - How did the chapter end? OR What happened next?

To prepare for the writing below, **ANNOTATE** your book as you read.

- Circle any unknown vocabulary words
- Highlight any information that helps you better understand the conflicts happening in the story
 - This could include: character's thoughts, character's actions, events that cause tension, anything that shows how problems are developing or being resolved

After you have finished reading, answer the following questions about **THEME DEVELOPMENT**. Write thoughtful answers on looseleaf paper in pen. Check your writing for spelling and grammar. Do not type your answers. Your handwritten work is due on the first day of school.

1. What does it mean to be an "outsider" in the story, and how do different characters experience this?
2. How does the conflict between the Greasers and the Socs help show the theme of social class or unfair judgement?
3. How does Ponyboy change in the story, and what does this show about growing up or finding your true self?
4. What does Johnny mean when he tells Ponyboy to "stay gold"?
5. How do friendship and loyalty help characters survive through tough times?

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.** You will have an activity with this book when you return in the fall.

Suggested chapter books from the Black Eyed Susan nominees:

Aniana Del Mar Jumps by Jasminne Mendez • *The Fire, The Water, and Maudie McGinn* by Sally J. Pla • *It Came From the Trees* by Ally Russell • *The Labors of Hercules Beal* by Gary D. Schmidt • *Medusa (The Myth of Monsters, Book 1)* by Katherine Marsh • *Mid-Air* by Alicia D. Williams • *The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, A Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity* by Nicholas Day • *The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman* by Gennifer Choldenko • *Wrecker* by Carl Hiaasen • *The Wrong Way Home* by Kath O'Shaughnessy • Some Other Options Listed Below:

