

Grades 6 - 8 Summer ELA Work
Summer 2026-2027
Google Classroom for grades 6, 7, 8
Code: dx42aitg

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 2026. Each page has grade specific information about reading during the summer. All reading, annotations, note-taking, and 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* /Award Winning Choice Book. Directions 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 *Fish in a Tree*, follow the “Notice and Note” jobs below to help you annotate. Each annotation job needs to be completed in a **DIFFERENT** color highlighter.

JOB	DESCRIPTION	WHAT TO DO
New Words	Anytime you see a word you don't know, haven't seen before, or didn't know could be used like that.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Look it up and add a brief 2-3 word definition or synonym in the margin
Emotional Moments	When there is a moment in the book that evokes a strong emotion (good or bad).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Draw a symbol that matches the emotion (example: ♥ = I loved this moment, ★ = this seems like a very important moment)
Questions	If there is something that doesn't make sense, makes you wonder, or provokes you to want to dive deeper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Write your question, thought, comment in the margin
Characterization	To help you better answer the questions below, pay close to the characterization of Ally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Make a note in the margin that explains the trait (example: if a character is brave or determined and the words that prove it)

At the end of the book, answer the following questions about the **CHARACTERIZATION** of Ally.

1. How does 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?

Reminders:

- Write thoughtful answers on looseleaf paper in pen.
- Check your writing for spelling and grammar.
- Do not type your answers.
- Take your time and write neatly in your best handwriting.
- Your handwritten work is due on the first day of school.

*****Remember, you also have to read a second book. Scroll down for the directions.**

Incoming 7th Grade Summer Work

REQUIRED NOVEL

1. Book #1 - *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt
2. Book #2 - *Black Eyed Susan* /Award Winning Choice Book. Directions 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 *Tuck Everlasting*, follow the “Notice and Note” jobs below to help you annotate. Each annotation job needs to be completed in a **DIFFERENT** color highlighter.

JOB	DESCRIPTION	WHAT TO DO
New Words	Anytime you see a word you don't know, haven't seen before, or didn't know could be used like that.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Look it up and add a brief 2-3 word definition or synonym in the margin
Emotional Moments	When there is a moment in the book that evokes a strong emotion (good or bad).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Draw a symbol that matches the emotion (example: ❤️ = I loved this moment, ★ = this seems like a very important moment)
Questions	If there is something that doesn't make sense, makes you wonder, or provokes you to want to dive deeper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Write your question, thought, comment in the margin
Conflict	To help you better answer the questions below, pay close to the development of conflicts throughout.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Make a note in the margin of who is involved ● Add a description to why you think they are “fighting” or what has caused the conflict

After you have finished reading, answer the following questions about **CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT**.

1. What internal conflict does Winnie face after meeting the Tucks, and how does it change as the story progresses?
 - Describe the choice Winnie struggles with after learning the Tucks' secret.
 - Explain how her thoughts and feelings change throughout the story.
2. How does the man in the yellow suit create an external conflict in the story?
 - Describe the problems the man in the yellow suit causes for Winnie and the Tucks.
 - Explain how his goals conflict with theirs.
3. What different perspectives do the Tuck family members have about immorality, and how does this create tension within the family or story?
 - Compare the views of at least two Tuck family members about morality.
 - Explain how these different opinions affect the story.
4. How does Winnie's decision at the end of the novel resolve the conflicts she has faced?
 - Describe the decision Winnie makes at the end of the novel.
 - Explain how her choice resolves the conflict she faces.

Reminders:

- Write thoughtful answers on looseleaf paper in pen.
- Check your writing for spelling and grammar.
- Do not type your answers.
- Take your time and write neatly in your best handwriting.
- Your handwritten work is due on the first day of school.

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Incoming 8th Grade Summer Work

REQUIRED NOVEL

1. Book #1 - *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
2. Book #2 - *Black Eyed Susan* /Award Winning Choice Book. Directions 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 *And Then There Were None*, follow the “Notice and Note” jobs below to help you annotate. Each annotation job needs to be completed in a **DIFFERENT** color highlighter.

JOB	DESCRIPTION	WHAT TO DO
New Words	Anytime you see a word you don't know, haven't seen before, or didn't know could be used like that.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Look it up and add a brief 2-3 word definition or synonym in the margin
Emotional Moments	When there is a moment in the book that evokes a strong emotion (good or bad).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Draw a symbol that matches the emotion (example: ♥ = I loved this moment, ★ = this seems like a very important moment)
Questions	If there is something that doesn't make sense, makes you wonder, or provokes you to want to dive deeper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Write your question, thought, comment in the margin
Evidence Tracker	Keep track of important details, clues, and events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight ● Write in the margins anything that you think this clue connects to <li style="text-align: center;">OR ● Write a question in the margin that you would like to ask the character

After you have finished reading, answer the following questions about **SUSPENSE** and **FORESHADOWING**.

1. How do the guests' past actions contribute to the events that occur on the island?
 - Explain the accusations made against the guests and how these affect the story.
 - Use examples from the novel to support your response.
2. How does Agatha Christie build suspense as the number of guests on the island decreases?
 - Identify key events that increase tension and uncertainty.
 - Explain how these events affect both the characters and the reader?
3. What role does the nursery rhyme play in the novel?
 - Describe how it connects to the deaths on the island.
 - Explain why it makes the characters and reader increasingly fearful.
4. What clues and examples of foreshadowing does Christie provide throughout the novel?
 - Identify at least three clues that hint at future events.
 - Explain how those clues become significant later in the story.
5. How does Christie guide readers to suspect different characters before revealing the truth?
 - Discuss how your suspicions changed while reading.
 - Explain which evidence was misleading and which evidence ultimately pointed toward the solution.

Reminders:

- Write thoughtful answers on looseleaf paper in pen.
- Check your writing for spelling and grammar.
- Do not type your answers.
- Take your time and write neatly in your best handwriting.
- Your handwritten work is due on the first day of school.

*****Remember, you also have to read a second book. Scroll down for the directions.**

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

YOUR CHOICE

2. **Book #2** - Black Eyed Susan /Award Winning Choice Book.

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

<https://school.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?a=1&go=1&adv=list&listType=award>

Log into your Google account to access the “ELA Summer Work” Class. There is a link posted with a list of books to choose from. Claim the book you want to read as yours by typing your name in the column that corresponds to your grade. Only one 6th, 7th, and 8th grader can read the same book - this means that two people in the same grade can NOT read the same book. You will have an activity to complete with this book when you return in the fall.

If you choose a book that is not on the list, it can NOT be a graphic novel or a novel in verse book.

Parents: These books are cultivated from a variety of award nominated/winning books; please look it over and make sure you agree with your child’s choice.

While you read your choice book, follow the “Notice and Note” jobs below to help you annotate. Each annotation job needs to be completed in a **DIFFERENT** color highlighter.

JOB	DESCRIPTION	WHAT TO DO
New Words	Anytime you see a word you don’t know, haven’t seen before, or didn’t know could be used like that.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Highlight● Look it up and add a brief 2-3 word definition or synonym in the margin
Emotional Moments	When there is a moment in the book that evokes a strong emotion (good or bad).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Highlight● Draw a symbol that matches the emotion (example: ❤️ = I loved this moment, ★ = this seems like a very important moment)
Questions	If there is something that doesn’t make sense, makes you wonder, or provokes you to want to dive deeper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Highlight● Write your question, thought, comment in the margin

Link for the books in case you are not in the Google Class.

[+ Summer Reading - Choice Books](#)