

Incoming Fourth Graders Summer Reading

As we prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, we want to ensure that our students are exercising their brains over the summer as well as retaining the important information they have learned this school year. One way to do this is through reading. It is important that students are able to think critically while reading and be able to analyze a variety of texts.

This summer we will require each student to complete a book share project over a chapter book. This project is due the first week of school and will be the first major grade reported for the new school year. As we prepare students for Fourth Grade, it is imperative that they are able to identify events and navigate specific details within texts as they become more extensive, complex requiring a deeper comprehension and analysis of organizational patterns. There are three options to choose from for the summer reading project. While the requirement is to complete one book and the activities listed below, students are encouraged to read multiple books throughout the summer. Any book on or above grade level will help prepare students for the rigor of the upcoming school year.

Summer Reading Options:

Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere

- Armani Curtis can think about only one thing: her tenth birthday. All her friends are coming to her party, her mama is making a big cake, and she has a good feeling about a certain wrapped box. Turning ten is a big deal to Armani. It means she's older, wiser, more responsible. But when Hurricane Katrina hits the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Armani realizes that getting older means being brave, seeing loved ones die, and mustering all her strength to help her family weather the storm. This story of courage and survival celebrates the miraculous power of hope and love in the face of the unthinkable.

The Hero Two Doors Down

- Steven Satlow is an eight-year-old boy living in Brooklyn, New York, which means he only cares about one thing - the Dodgers. Steve's love for the baseball team is passed down to him from his father. The two of them spend hours reading the sports pages and listening to games on the radio. Aside from an occasional run-in with his teacher, life is pretty simple for Steve. But then Steve hears a rumor that an African American family is moving to his all-Jewish neighborhood. It's 1948 and some of his neighbors are against it. Steve knows that this is wrong. His hero, Jackie Robinson, broke the color barrier in baseball the year before. Then it happens - Steve's new neighbor is Jackie Robinson! Steve is beyond excited about living two doors down from the Robinson family. He can't wait to meet Jackie. This is going to be the best baseball season yet! How many kids ever get to become friends with their hero?

My Side of the Mountain

- Fifteen-year-old Sam Gribley has decided to run away from his crowded apartment home, but unlike most kids who rarely get beyond their block, Sam goes from New York City all the way to the ruined farm of Great-grandfather Gribley in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. There are no buildings or people on the old Gribley farm, so Sam sets up residence by hollowing out the trunk of an ancient Hemlock tree. He has brought only a few tools of survival with him: a penknife, a ball of cord, an ax, 40 dollars, and some flint and steel to help him make fire. Using these simple tools and his wits, Sam learns to live off the land, and in the course of a year, discovers just how much he values freedom, independence, and adventure when faced with the challenges of blizzards, loneliness and fear.

Project Requirements

1. Choose your book from the above list. Read for information, anticipating that you will present its contents to your class. Take notes and write the summary as you read.
2. Write a one-page summary for the book. This should include the **Title of the book** (capitalizing the major words) with the **author, main characters, setting,** and the **problem and solution.** Write in complete sentences and use details from the text in your response. **You may type or print your summary.**
3. Decorate a large paper bag. It can be a grocery, gift, or shopping bag. The decor should be a scene from the book and the title of the book. Simply printing internet pictures is not acceptable and it needs to show your creativity. You may use materials such as glitter, construction paper, cotton balls, string, scrapbooking items, etc. to help decorate the bag. You will attach the story summary to the back of the bag. (One side decorated, one side is the summary).
4. Inside the bag include **five** items that represent the book or characters from the book. You **MUST** bring the book for the presentation. The book itself does not count as one of the items. The items can be photos, toys, samples, food, etc.. For example, for the book Crash a football would be a good item as Crash played football. For the book The Tale of Despereaux, a toy crown would be great as Mig wanted to be the princess and wear a crown. Get it?
5. Now, you need five index cards or small pieces of paper. Write about how each of the five items show something about the book or characters. **Write in complete sentences.** These cards are placed inside the bag with the five items.

Expected Example: The main character is Harry Potter and he learns that he is a wizard in the beginning of the book. I brought a magic wand because in the text Harry must choose his personal wand. He visits the wand store and comes away with a spectacular wand that actually chooses him!

Poor Example: I brought a bat because the main character played baseball.

6. Presentations will be made the first week of school. Your presentation will tell us about the book WITHOUT reading word-for-word the summary. The cards are reminders and used to jar your memory, but not for reading aloud. You need to be prepared to talk! Don't worry, we are a community of friends. We will clap through any messes and honor the bravery of you as the speaker in your new classroom!

*If you or your student have any questions, please email tybrown@lisd.org or refer to your child's 3rd grade teacher's Google Classroom account under the tab Summer Reading.

Incoming 5th graders will have three options for their summer reading. While the requirement is to complete one book and the activities listed below, students are encouraged to read multiple books throughout the summer. Any book on or above grade level will help prepare students for the rigor of the upcoming year. Remember what Mrs. Wilson always says, “The more you read, the more you know.”

Freak The Mighty by: Rodman Philbrick

In this unforgettable story, two unlikely friends join forces to vanquish the bullies who belittle them. Max Kane is an angry, oversized boy thought to be slow and stupid. Kevin is twisted-up, tiny boy with crutches and the mind of a genius. But when Kevin is on Max’s shoulders, together they become Freak the Mighty, “ nine feet tall, and strong enough to walk through walls.”

Among The Hidden by: Margaret Peterson Haddix

This is the story about the main character, Luke Gardner, who is a third child. In the world that Luke lives in, parents are only allowed to have two children, and any additional children will be killed.

Because of Winn Dixie by: Kate DiCamillo

One summer’s day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It’s because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends.

Assignment: Write or type a summary (must include beginning, middle, and end) of your book, explain the main character’s development (their personality at the beginning of the story and how/why they changed), and select three to five quotes you found impactful. Be sure to explain why you chose those quotes and how they helped progress the plot. You must provide text evidence to support all of your responses. This will be turned into your ELAR teacher the first day of school.

If you or your student have any questions, please email ldodson@lisd.org.