

Rising Sixth Grade Language Arts Summer Assignment 2010

This summer you are required to read **one book**.

Make sure that you choose a book that interests you and is appropriate to your reading level. Please feel free to try a new genre or author to experience different writing styles. If you need ideas for books, go to the sixth grade website for links to sites with book suggestions.

How do you know what book is **just right** for your reading level? Remember the five finger rule.

A book is too easy if – “you can pronounce and understand all of the words in a section and can retell everything you read” – (You do not have to ponder anything.)

A book is too challenging if – “you can’t pronounce or do not understand the meaning of five or more words in a section and you can’t retell what you’ve read” (A challenging book is one that you have difficulty following the storyline.)

A book is just right if you have a few words that you can’t pronounce or do not understand, but no more than five. Remember you can use your context clues or your background knowledge to decipher the meaning of the word(s).

How will you get credit for what you read over the summer?

You will record your thinking as you read your book on sticky notes. It is important you keep track of your ideas (thinking) at the beginning, middle and end of the book. **Your sticky notes are due the first day of school.**

How do you think when you read?

Think about what you learned this year in fifth grade with your *Daybook* and novel studies.

Good readers use reading strategies while they are reading to deepen their understanding of a book. What are these strategies? Some of the reading strategies are making predictions, making connections, and drawing conclusions

- ❖ You make **predictions** when you state...I think this _____ will happen next because _____.
- ❖ You make **connections** to the book by relating the characters or events to your own life, the world around you or to another book. For example: This situation reminds me of something that happened in my own life. This book reminds me of another book I have read. The main character’s personality is similar to another character, or a person in my own life.
- ❖ You **draw conclusions** about a variety of things. One would be deciding on a character trait for the main character. As you read, you look at how the character acts and talks with others to decide how you can describe their personality. For example: I think the character is courageous because _____.

How do I record my thinking?

Step One: Break your book into **three** sections (beginning, middle and end)

You have to decide if you want to read the book and then re-read to place your notes, or place your notes as you read the book.

Step Two: Write your thinking on sticky notes (post-it notes)

- Write **chapter title/numbers and page numbers** from the book on each sticky note.
- Clearly label and write on sticky notes (organized)
- Use the **reading strategies listed on the previous page to help guide your notes.**
- Include thinking from the beginning, middle and end of the book.
- **Remember do not write too many sticky notes. A note on every page is too much.** Try to have one per chapter, but keep in mind that there may be more or less depending on the book.
- **Make each sticky note meaningful** – know why you are writing a thought down about a prediction, connection or about a character's personality or event.

Step Three: Fill out the reading log and obtain a parent / guardian signature.

Step Four: Enjoy reading your book!

Example of a sticky note:

Chapter 2 pg. 14

I know it is difficult to make friends when you move from one place to the next, because I moved a lot growing up. Max tries to connect with Kevin by picking up the ornithopter, but Kevin looks strangely back at Max as he rushes away. I wonder why Kevin seems scared of Max and left so quickly.

During the first month of school, you will need the sticky notes on the pages of the book for a class writing assignment.

What if I do not have access to my reading book for the first month of school?

Label a piece of notebook paper for each section: beginning, middle and end. Include the title of the text (underlined) and author.

Place your sticky notes on the corresponding labeled piece of notebook paper. You will have a total of three pieces of paper. **Again, you only do this if you will not have access to your book in class.**

Rising Sixth Grade Summer Reading Log Sheet 2010

I, _____, read the book listed below as part of my

Student's Name (clearly printed)

summer reading assignment and completed sticky notes. I understand that I will have a class writing assignment to complete using my book and sticky notes.

Student's signature

Title of book: _____

Author(s): _____

Number of pages: _____ **Genre:** _____

My child has read the book listed above and I reviewed his/her sticky notes.

Parent/Guardian Signature