

Summer 2021
Science -- Assignments for the Class of 2022 (Rising 8th)

Required Science Summer Work for Rising 8th Graders

In your Life Science books from this year, read pp. 474-489, learn the material, and complete written responses for all of the “prompting” exercises and questions that appear on those pages (e.g., p. 474 has a **Reflection** question you’ll complete, p. 475 has a **Make Meaning** question and a **Write About It** question, etc.). Please complete ALL of these items on looseleaf paper with your best handwriting. Include both the page number and “title” of the prompt you are completing before your response. You’ll submit your material to me on the first day of science class in August. There will be a quiz on this summer work material toward the end of the first week of school (date TBD).

Optional Science Summer Work

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. The items below ARE NOT required. This science can be submitted as extra credit assignments (up to a max of 10 points each). Any optional science work you complete is due on the first day of science class 2021 (or delivered via email to lregelbrugge@bssva.org).

Option 1 - Science in the Summer

Usually I encourage students to visit a science or discovery museum, a nature center, a National Park, or an outdoor museum such as a botanical garden or zoo and spend some time investigating the exhibits and/or speaking with the park ranger or docent. Pursue these options if they are available or, if not, take virtual trips, do some science experiments at home, or keep a nature journal. I’ve given some suggestions about places that have great virtual material. To receive extra credit, complete a one-page (200-300 words) written paper giving specific information and descriptions about what you did and where, what you observed and learned, and what you found most fascinating. Photos and/or drawings are welcome additions. If you keep a nature journal this summer, then submit your journal for me to review instead of doing a one-page paper.

Some really interesting places to visit virtually are the Exploratorium, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and virtual tours available for many national parks. Visit places (virtually) in other parts of the world too! If you like experiments, there are lots of online resources and kits (e.g., Steve Spangler). If you keep a nature journal, make observations, draw pictures, gather data, ask questions, and make connections.

Option 2 - Reading and Writing about Real Scientists

Read a biography or autobiography about a scientist or inventor. Write a five-paragraph essay including:

- Your name, “8th Grade Optional Summer Science Work,” name of book and scientist;
- Introductory paragraph including when and where the scientist lived and why he/she is significant (why there are books about him/her);
- One paragraph summarizing highlights from his/her life (scientific work and achievements);
- One paragraph describing any particular challenges the scientist faced (personally or in the work);
- One paragraph about how his/her life is similar to and/or different from your own;
- A closing paragraph that tells what you found most interesting about that scientist.
- Include a bibliographic citation: title, author, publisher, and publishing date of book.

Summer 2021
Literature -- Assignments for the Class of 2022 (Rising 8th)

Required Literature Assignments

1. Read ***El Deafo***, by Cece Bell

This summer BSS will participate in a "one book, one school" summer read. Together we will read the book ***El Deafo*** by Cece Bell. It is a graphic novel memoir about a girl who loses her hearing at a young age and the challenges that she faces because of this hearing loss. It's a quick but good read! Your family will have to purchase this book. Return to school prepared to discuss the book and your impressions.

2. Read ***The Merchant of Venice*** by William Shakespeare

This is a great play to begin our study of Shakespeare. Read the whole play and complete the following activities. You are being given a numbered book from school, and you will need to bring that back to school with you and return it this fall. To help support your understanding of the play, feel free to read ***No Fear Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice*** or go to Spark Notes to reinforce your understanding of the plot, characters, and key themes.

- Keep a "vocabulary log" of the words you do not understand even after reviewing the definitions in the book. Your log will likely be lengthy, because the spoken language during Shakespeare's time was different and he used sophisticated vocabulary. Please write the definitions for **at least 10** of the words in your log.
- Create a cartoon, timeline, image map, or plot journey to summarize the plot and key themes. Be sure to include your name on your work.

3. Your Favorite Genre

Create an illustration, pictograph, or comic strip that somehow **communicates the literary genre you like the most** (genres of literature include non-fiction, patterned poetry, narrative verse, short stories, novels, dramas, myths, fables, tall tales, biography, autobiography, fantasy, and historical and contemporary fiction). Your illustration must also communicate **WHY** you like that genre so much. Finally, your illustration must include titles and author names of three (3) of your favorite books in the genre you like most and a short phrase (bullet) that communicates what you most liked about each of those three books. Be sure to include your name on your illustration.

General Advice for Summer

*The most effective ongoing preparation for the High School Placement Test is to **read voraciously** (which means to read, read, read!), to look up and learn new vocabulary as you go, and to **practice basic arithmetic** so you are nimble with computation and general math facts. The reading supports vocabulary development, strengthens familiarity with language mechanics and writing styles, and reinforces exposure to capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Practicing basic arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, long division, and working with fractions, decimals, percentages, etc.) helps because many of the math problems on HSPT involve computation steps.*