

Summer Reading Assignments

Dear Class of 2024:

Congratulations on completing your 5th grade year! I am so excited to have you in 6th Grade Literature class! We will be reading a variety of literary genres including historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, and mystery. We will be studying the impact of figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, idioms, and much more!

To build great reading habits, you must read. You have one **required assignment for the summer. This will be due in August, when you return.**

Required reading #1: Read or listen to *Five Children & It* by E. Nesbit. It is available as a free audiobook for kids at audible.com or if you prefer to read it has an e-book, it is free on iBooks. This is a fantasy story written in the early 1900s. You may not recognize some words or phrases, but do not let it discourage you from enjoying this story. Write a three-paragraph essay reviewing the book. The review will be formal, so no contractions or slang are to be used in your writing. Your book review must include the following:

- I. Introduction (3-5 sentences)
 - A. Include the title of the book, the author, and the genre
 - B. Your opening paragraph should give a general idea about what the book is about
- II. Body (5 sentences)
 - A. Details about important characters
 - B. Details about the setting
 - C. Details about moments in the plot
- III. Conclusion (3-5 sentences)
 - A. Evaluate the book
 - B. Offer an opinion but do not give away the resolution of the story.

Use the Middle School heading for your book review:

First and last name
BSSVA

Date
6 LIT

Assignment: Book Review

Formatting: You may choose any style font, but the font size needs to be 12. All typed assignments for Literature class must have the Middle School heading. Please double-space your sentences.

Peace,

Mrs. Blochberger
ablochberger@bssva.org

Summer 2021

Science -- Optional Assignments for the Class of 2024 (Rising 6th)

Welcome to Middle School Science! There is no required summer work, but 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 each). It is due on the first day of science class in August 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, "6th 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.

Any optional Summer Science work you complete should be turned in to Mrs. R on the first day of science class (or emailed to lregelbrugge@bssva.org).

June 2021

Summer Math Assignment

Complete math workbooks that were sent home in the backpacks.

Mrs. Cassella and Mr. Najarro,
MS Math Teachers

June 2021

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. **The items below ARE NOT required.** In addition to not being required, the Social studies ideas ARE NOT extra credit assignments.

Social Studies (These are NOT required of for extra credit)

Out and About

Try and visit some of the wonderful historical sites that are part of Washington, DC and Alexandria. Some different sites include: the National Geographic Society; Sackler Gallery of Asian Art; Smithsonian Museum of African Art; Smithsonian Folk Life Festival; Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Mount Vernon, Gadsby's Tavern, Carlyle House, and the Apothecary in Old Town, Alexandria. If you travel over the summer, try finding a historical site while on vacation and tell us about it! If you would like to, write me a postcard or letter telling when where you went and what you saw! Feel free to mail this to the school at:

Mrs. MacKnight
1417 W Braddock Road
Alexandria, Va 22302

Reading

You can't do too much. Our Social Studies next year will be about ancient civilizations. Any nonfiction reading you do in this area will make your school study more interesting and meaningful. Historical fiction is also a great window.

Ask Questions

Curiosity is one of your most formidable learning tools. Cultivate it this summer by noticing what you know and what you don't know and asking questions—ask someone or do some quick research on the internet.

Have a wonderful summer. See you August 23rd.

See you next year,
Mrs. MacKnight