

Summer Reading Assignments

Dear Class of 2023:

Congratulations on completing your 6<sup>th</sup> grade year! We have an exciting year ahead reading a variety of genres from a memoir, to a documentary novel, a dystopian novel, and a mystery novel.

To build great reading habits, you must read. You have **two required assignments for the summer. They will be due in August when you return to school.**

**Required reading #1:** Read the short story, "Thank You Ma'am," by Langston Hughes. It is available online. Create a poster using images, drawings, or symbols to represent the theme of the story. Divide your poster in two parts. The top part will be the images or symbols that represent the theme. You may also draw the images or use cut outs from magazines. On the bottom half of the poster you will write a paragraph (introductory sentence, three details, and a concluding sentence) explaining what you think the theme of the short story is. The poster can be any size but no smaller than 8.5 in. x 11 in.

**Required reading #2:** Read a historical or realistic fiction book and write a book review on it. 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 without giving away the ending

**Use the Middle School heading for both of these assignments:**

First and last name  
BSSVA

Date  
7 LIT

You may choose any style font, but the size of the font needs to be 12.

Have fun and be creative with your poster presentation.

Peace,

Mrs. Blochberger

**Summer 2021**  
**Science -- Assignments for the Class of 2023 (Rising 7th)**

**Required Science Summer Work for Rising 7th Graders**

In your Earth Science books from this year, read pp. 588-603, learn the material, and complete written responses for all of the “prompting” exercises and questions that appear on those pages (e.g., p. 588 has a **Reflection** question you’ll complete, p. 589 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](mailto: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, "7th 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.

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

Dear Rising 7th graders,

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.

**History (These are NOT required or for extra credit)**

1. Consider taking advantage of some of the **museum opportunities** that exist in Washington and Alexandria. The following are suggestions of things that I think you would enjoy and that will give you some context for topics you will be studying during the next two years.

- Smithsonian Museum of American History
- Smithsonian: National Portrait Gallery and Museum of American Art, located together across from Verizon Center; beautiful atrium for lunch; personal favorite!
- Mount Vernon
- Carlyle House
- Gadsby's Tavern
- National Museum of the American Indian: This is a reading museum. The exhibits are very thoughtful and thought provoking, but there is not a lot of "stuff" to see. Another fine dining experience; you will appreciate how connected our foods are to the Native American heritage.
- National Building Museum. Exhibit, Washington: Symbol and City
- National Museum of African American History and Culture. This is a phenomenal resource. I cannot recommend it strongly enough. Like the National Museum of the American Indian, it provides much to think about. (And the restaurant is also awesome!)

2. Look for the history-ish opportunity wherever you are! Examples: Various War memorials in Alexandria and DC, World War II watch towers along Delaware Coast like at Cape Henlopen.

3. Read! Any historical fiction or nonfiction will broaden your base for understanding our study of US history in 7th and 8th grades. You can also follow a current events topic.

4. Movies: Many great movies can expose you to historical context or significant people in history. Do some searching and find a few that interest you.

Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to studying the history of the United States with you.

See you in the fall,  
Mrs. MacKnight