

## Summer Reading Assignments

Dear Class of 2025:

Congratulations on completing your 5<sup>th</sup> grade year! I am so excited to have you in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Literature class! We have an exciting year ahead in Literature and will be reading a variety of genres. We will also study 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 at [audible.com](http://audible.com) or if you prefer to read the book, you can find it on [getepic.com](http://getepic.com). This is a fantasy story written in the early 1900s. You may not recognize some words or phrases, but do not let that discourage you from enjoying the 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:

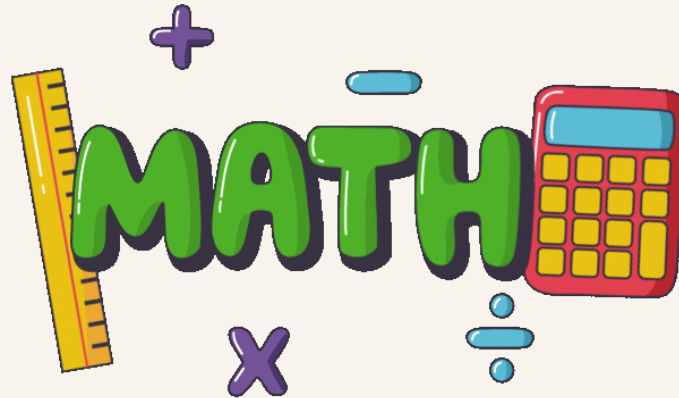
- I. Introduction (3-5 sentences)
  - A. Include the title of the book, the author, and the genre
  - B. Your opening paragraph should give a general idea about what the book is about
- II. Body (5 sentences)
  - A. Details about important characters
  - B. Details about the setting
  - C. Details about 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.

Please type your book review using Times New Roman font style in 12-point font size and double-space your sentences. Use the Middle School heading for this assignment:

First and last name  
BSSVA

Date  
7 LIT

**SUMMER 2022**



**TO: BSS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Math Summer Assignments  
Math 6th Grade**

**Complete Math workbooks (including  
yellow page brain aerobics) that were  
sent home in the backpacks.**

**Have a great summer,**

**Ms. Cassella and Mr. Najarro**

**MS Math Teachers**

## **Optional Science Summer Work**

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. The items below ARE NOT required. This science may be submitted as extra credit assignments. Any optional science work you complete is due on the first day of science class 2022.

### **Option 1 - Science in the Summer** (max of 5-10 bonus points, depending on quality; the real benefit is what you learn!)

Students are encouraged 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. 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 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** (max of 10-15 points, depending on quality)

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;
- 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.

## **General Advice for Summer**

*The most effective preparation for the High School Placement Test (which you will take in 8th grade) is to **read voraciously** (which means to read, read, read!), look up and learn new vocabulary as you go, and **practice basic arithmetic** so you are nimble with computation and general math facts. If you start this preparation anytime in middle school, it will enhance your success. Avid reading expands your vocabulary, strengthens familiarity with language mechanics and writing styles, and reinforces proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Practicing basic arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, long division, fractions, decimals, percentages, etc.) helps because many math problems on HSPT involve computation.*

This summer there is only 1 required assignment for *6th Grade Homeroom*. Please keep in mind that there are required assignments for other classes like Math, Science, etc., so please read through the summer assignment pages thoroughly.

The one required 6th Grade Homeroom assignment is to purchase or borrow a copy of *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Blessed Sacrament is participating in the One Book, One School program, which is designed to bring a school community together by reading the same book, preschool through 8th grade. It allows teachers, parents, and students to come together as a community and share a common bond by reading the same book.

Our One Book, One School selection for summer 2022 is Wonder by R.J. Palacio. The adults and our older students (3-8) will read the [novel version](#), and our younger students (ECC-2) will read the [picture book version](#).

Again, you should read the text version of the novel, **not** the picture book version of the novel. As you read the book I would like you to journal your thoughts, reactions, and feelings about the characters and events that occur in the story. You should have one journal entry per chapter and you can either write bullet points or in full sentences. Take your time as you journal please - this is about giving yourself time to reflect and write honestly. Please bring your journal to school that first week back!

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 into the past!

### **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.