

Incoming Sixth Grade Summer Reading

Middle School Summer Reading Activities:

1. Read the mandatory novel that is listed for your grade level. Students will discuss this book in class during the first week of school and will be tested on this novel.
2. Choose and read one book from the optional list that is provided for your grade level. Students will be required to take the Accelerated Reader test on this book during the first week of school.
1. In lieu of a project, students will complete a reading skills packet that will cover basic comprehension skills. This packet will be provided on the SCS website for each grade level. The skills packet will be due Friday, the first week of school and will count as a homework grade. If the student does not complete the skills packet, he/she will lose 10 points from his/her homework grade. The skills packet will be reviewed in class and then the material from the skills packet will be assessed on the same test as the mandatory novel on Friday, the second week of school. The AR test for the optional novel selection is due Wednesday, the second week of school.

*The mandatory novel section of the teacher-made test will be worth 60 points, and the skills section of the teacher-made test will be worth 30 points. The AR test on the optional book will be worth 10 points.

*The score from the teacher-made test (on the mandatory novel and skills) will be combined with the score from the AR test (on the optional novel) and will count as a 100 point test grade.

*Please remember to check reviews on amazon.com before choosing a novel from the optional list. These reviews will help to guide you in your selection of a novel.

MANDATORY NOVEL:

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows -- does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan?

OPTIONAL NOVELS:

Fiction

1. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

This brilliant, sensitive story — narrated not only by ten-year-old August Pullman, but also by his older sister, his classmates, and other kids in his life — takes an insightful look at how one person's differences can affect the lives of so many others.

2. *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick

A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty".

Excerpt from Scholastic.com book wizard review

3. *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

On a long car trip from Ohio to Idaho, 13-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle tells her grandparents about her friend Phoebe, who is coping with the disappearance of her mother. Beneath Phoebe's story is Sal's search for her own mother, who left one sunny morning and never returned.

4. *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.

5. *Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen

The first time she saw him, she flipped. The first time he saw her, he ran. That was the second grade, but not much has changed by the seventh. She says: "My Bryce. Still walking around with my first kiss." He says: "It's been six years of strategic avoidance and social discomfort." But in the eighth grade everything gets turned upside down. And just as he's thinking there's more to her than meets the eye, she's thinking that he's not quite all he seemed.

6. *Savvy* by Ingrid Law

Mibs Beaumont and her family live on the border of Kansas and Nebraska. Each family gets a special power-called a savvy-on their thirteenth birthday, and Mib's big day is fast approaching.

Excerpt from Scholastic.com book wizard review

Non-Fiction

7. *Soul Surfer* by Bethany Hamilton, Rick Bundschuh, and Sheryl Berk

She lost her arm in a shark attack and nearly died, but she never lost her faith. Now a major motion picture, "Soul Surfer" is the moving story of Bethany Hamilton's triumphant return to competitive surfing and has continued to be a beacon of inspiration to all who hear it. They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? Or that nothing — not even the loss of her arm — could come between her and the waves?

8. *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo

Todd and Sonja Burpo share Colton's experiences of having visions of heaven after a near-fatal illness, describing what Colton saw in heaven and the lessons he has learned about faith and love after listening to Colton's stories of his time with Jesus.

9. *Hana's Suitcase* by Gail Levine

Join the journey of a museum curator and her students in Tokyo, Japan, as they investigate and study a curious suitcase marked "Hana Brady, May 16, 1931". They search for clues about young Hana and her family during the Nazi invasion.

Sixth Grade Required Reading (Non-Honors)

1st Quarter- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

2nd Quarter – *The Watsons go to Birmingham – 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis

3rd Quarter – *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen

4th Quarter – *The Seer of Shadows* by Avi

Sixth Grade Required Reading (Honors)

1st Quarter – *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain
(Puffin Classics ISBN: 978-0-141-32110-3)

2nd Quarter – Selections from the *Complete Stories and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*
(Materials will be provided by the teacher. No purchase is necessary.)

3rd Quarter – *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson

4th Quarter – *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park

Incoming Sixth Grade Summer Skills Packet

Name: _____

The reading packet is to be completed by the student during the summer to reinforce skills learned in the previous grades. The packet is to be turned in on the designated due date.

I. CONTEXT CLUES

Read the paragraph. Circle the best answer choice.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1883-1945) loved trees. As a boy, he took great interest in his family's land in Hyde Park, New York. He learned the importance of _____ the land. Later, as president, he created job programs for unemployed people in the field of conservation. During the early 1930s, **catastrophic** dust storms had stripped away valuable soil in the Great Plains. Roosevelt's programs taught farmers how to protect the soil and how to plant trees as windbreaks to keep the soil from blowing away.

1. The best word for the blank in this paragraph is

- A. destroying B. preserving C. encouraging D. delicate

2. In this paragraph, the word **catastrophic** must mean

- A. drought-resistant C. rather mild
B. really disastrous D. greatly welcomed

3. Underline the word or words that helped you answer item.

4. Write a sentence of your own using the word catastrophic.

II. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Read the paragraph. Circle the best answer choice.

Sometimes laws can seem as silly as a clown's clothes. Usually, these are laws that were once made for a reason but are no longer needed. Here are some funny laws from Canada. In Saskatoon, you cannot catch fish with your hands. In Calgary, it's against the law to toss snowballs without the mayor's permission. Children can't eat ice cream cones on the streets of Ottawa on Sundays. Places in the U.S. have strange laws, too. Some make as much sense as a talking turtle.

5. The underlined words in this paragraph are an example of figurative language called

- A. metaphor B. personification C. simile D. hyperbole

6. These words compare _____ to _____.

7. Find and underline another example of figurative language in the paragraph.
8. This example is called _____.
9. Write the meaning of the second figurative language in your own words.
10. For the following types of figurative languages construct a creative sentence showing a clear understanding of each device.

- A. onomatopoeia B. alliteration C. flashback D. idiom E. symbolism

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

III. MULTIPLE-MEANING WORDS

Some words have more than one meaning and pronunciation. Study the word below and its meanings. Then write the letter of the correct meaning of the word next to each sentence.

a. project (v): to throw or cast forward

b. project (v): to stick out or over something else

c. project (n): a plan, job, or task

- _____ 11. The roof **projects** over the windows on the top floor.
- _____ 12. Work had just begun on the **project** when it was suddenly interrupted.
- _____ 13. The machine **projects** an image on the screen.
- _____ 14. The shadow of the eagle, **projected** on the snow, alerted the lambs.
- _____ 15. The shoes **projecting** from under the bench were covered with paint.

_____ 16. Improving his work in fractions and decimals is Nick's latest **project**.

Context Clues: Read the question carefully. Use the meaning of the sentences to help you choose the right answer.

17. Groaning, he rolled over the **planted** his feet firmly on the floor.

In which sentence does the word planted mean the same thing as in the sentence above?

- A. Jean **planted** four rows of cucumbers.
- B. The lawyer claimed that the evidence had been **planted**.
- C. The settlers **planted** new crops.
- D. Jo **planted** her feet in the dirt before swinging the bat.

18. To shoulder the pressures of school, home, and leisure activities can be stressful.

- A. Christ willingly chose to **shoulder** the burdens of mankind so that we may attain eternal happiness in heaven.
- B. The coach advised the player to use his shoulder when throwing a long pass down the field.
- C. Many cars pulled to the shoulder of the highway to view the Mardi Gras parade.
- D. The motorist pulled the vehicle to the shoulder of the road to repair a flat tire.

19. Barb put a clean _____ on the bed.

Jason washed the cookie _____ after he finished baking.

- A. pillow
- B. tray
- C. sheet
- D. cover

20. We _____ nearer to the warmth of the campfire.

He _____ the wrong conclusion from the facts that were presented.

- A. drew
- B. moved
- C. identified
- D. illustrated

IV. ANALOGIES

There are different ways you can compare one thing to another. Sometimes you can compare pairs of things to each other, too. When doing this, you need to think how the first two things are related to each other. Then think how the next pair should be related to each other. Complete each sentence by circling the correct word.

21. **Hot** is to **cold** as **safe** is to _____.
- A. harmless B. safety patrol C. dangerous
22. **Roar** is to **lion** as **hiss** is to _____.
- A. boy B. snake C. elephant
23. **Medicine** is to **cure** as **poison** is to _____.
- A. snakes B. kill C. drink
24. **Bee** is to **hive** as **bird** is to _____.
- A. nest B. sing C. wings
25. **January** is to **winter** as **July** is to _____.
- A. spring B. summer C. fireworks
26. **Hunter** is to **jungle** as **fisher** is to _____.
- A. boat B. water C. line
27. **Time** is to **clock** as **temperature** is to _____.
- A. winter B. swimming C. thermometer

V. FACT & NONFACT

A statement or an idea that can be proved true is a **fact**. A statement or an idea that can be proved false is a **nonfact**.

Read each statement and decide whether it is a fact or nonfact. Write **FACT** if it is a fact and **NONFACT** if it is a nonfact.

- _____ 28. The sun rises in the east in the morning and sets in the west in the evening.
- _____ 29. The blue whale's skin is colored green.
- _____ 30. You need special equipment to breathe on the moon.
- _____ 31. There are rain forests on the moon.
- _____ 32. Only people who drive red cars are caught speeding.

_____ 33. Sea water tastes salty.

_____ 34. A rain cloud actually feels like a giant, fluffy cotton ball.

_____ 35. Washington D.C. is our nation's capital.

VI. STEPS IN A PROCESS

A series of steps that you follow in order are steps in a process. Each of the following activities has several steps that need to be followed in order. Write numbers 1 through 4 on the lines to show the right order of each activity.

36. Give a Speech

_____ Create note cards with
keywords on the topic.

_____ Research the topic.

_____ Practice giving your speech.

_____ Decide on a topic.

38. Plan a Surprise Party

_____ Send out invitations.

_____ Greet the guest of honor by
jumping out and yelling
"Surprise!"

_____ Choose a day for the party.

_____ Hide until the guest of honor arrives.

37. Write a Book Report

_____ Write the book report.

_____ Read the book.

_____ Choose a book for the report.

_____ Make the cover for the book report.

39. Direct a Play

_____ Admit people to the show on
opening night.

_____ Choose a play to present.

_____ Audition actors.

_____ Direct actors as they rehearse
scenes and choose costumes.

VIII. CAUSE & EFFECT

What might happen as a result of each story event below? Write the most likely effect of each cause on the lines provided.

40. The class planted the flower seeds in the ground where it was sunny. Each day the students watered their new garden. They even made a scarecrow so that the birds wouldn't eat the seeds.

EFFECT: _____

41. Dottie really wants to play the guitar. She has an older cousin who is a very good guitar player. Dottie decides to tell him that she wants to learn to play the guitar as well as he does.

EFFECT: _____

42. Dan and Kim are good friends. Dan has been doing poorly on his math tests lately. Kim decides to help Dan study. They have been working together solving math problems every day after school.

EFFECT: _____

43. Juan is having a birthday party. His parents are sending out party invitations to everyone in Juan's class, to everyone in the school band, and to everyone on the softball team. Juan has many friends.

EFFECT: _____

IX. Prefixes and Suffixes

Write the definition and part of speech of each on the following prefixes and suffixes. Select an appropriate root word to join with the prefix or suffix. Create a sentence showing you know the meaning of the new word. You may use the internet or dictionary to assist you. Be creative. Your sentences should be fully developed using all grammar rules.

Prefixes to use – re, pro, non

Suffixes to use – ion, less, ish

44. Prefix word with - re _____

Definition and part of speech -

Sentence -

45. Prefix word with - pro _____

Definition and part of speech -

Sentence -

46. Prefix word with - non _____

Definition and part of speech -

Sentence -

47. Suffix word with - ion _____

Definition and part of speech -

Sentence -

48. Suffix word with - less _____

Definition and part of speech -

Sentence -

49. Suffix word with - ish _____

Definition and part of speech -

Sentence -

X. MAIN IDEAS

Read each paragraph. Circle the best answer choice.

People have used oil since early times. Ancient cultures learned that oil was sticky and useful for binding things together. They also noted that oil kept water out. For example, the Sumerians used the oil in asphalt to keep mosaics on walls and in floors. The people of Mesopotamia used the oil burned to create light. Throughout the ages, hundreds of other uses for oil were discovered.

50. The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. The Sumerians used oil as glue.
- B. When burned, oil creates light.
- C. Oil has sticky qualities.
- D. People have used oil through the ages.

51. A supporting detail is

- A. The Chinese found oil underground.
- B. Mesopotamians used oil as a sealer.
- C. People learned that oil is useful.
- D. Oil is a precious resource.

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

What is a gaggle? You probably know that it is a group of geese. Gaggle is a collective noun because it names a group. Many collective nouns name groups of animals. For example, a string is a group of ponies, and a troop is a group of kangaroos. What is a knot? If you are talking about toads, then a knot is a group of them. Have you ever found foxes together? Then you saw a skulk. And if a group of elk crosses in front of you, you're looking at a gang.

52. The main idea of this paragraph is

- A. Meanings of collective nouns
- B. A knot is a group of toads
- C. Words with two meanings
- D. Singular and plural nouns

53. A supporting detail is

- A. Ants live in a colony.
- B. A gang is a group of elk.
- C. Words with two meanings
- D. Singular and plural nouns