

Summer Reading Project (Rising 5th Graders)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In order to better prepare our students academically, Blessed Sacrament Catholic School incorporates a summer reading program to encourage reading and enhance language arts skills. Here is an overview of what is attached and needed to complete this summer ELA assignment. Your child will not be graded on accuracy, only on completion of their work, effort and joy put into each assignment.

1. Book #1 Assignment & Book Cover Instructions.
2. Book #2 Book List & 3-5 paragraph response instructions.

Students will select **two** books to read this summer. Book #1 will be the "Enjoyment" book of choice and Book #2 will be from the book list below.

My goal as the 5th grade ELA teacher is to assess student levels and help each student develop strong reading & writing skills to meet their maximum potential. To meet my goal, I need to get a better understanding as to what level your child is currently performing so they are able to begin fifth grade successfully.

Please let your child complete this level of work as independently as possible. Your child may ask for help if they need a word spelled correctly or assistance in reading a word. However, I am asking that you do not edit your child's grammar in their writing, or spelling in their paragraphs. Please just encourage your child to do their very best. Again, Your child will not be graded on accuracy, only on completion of their work, effort and joy put into each assignment.

Finally, in fifth grade, we will be doing more writing assignments, longer reading passages, and more indepth novel studies. I can't wait to see what your child brings in at the beginning of the year! I hope you all have a wonderfully safe and happy summer vacation. You deserve it!

Many Blessings,

Mrs. Maggie Santiago

Book #1: *Book of Choice*- There are two components to this project. Part 1: Students will complete a "Giant" book cover (*details below*). Part 2: Give an oral presentation as to, "*Why my book would be a good addition for the classroom bookshelf*"

Book Cover: You are a new book designer and have been chosen to design a "Brand New" cover that will be displayed at the 5th grade book convention in the fall. Your design needs to have the following requirements:

- ½ page poster board (cut a regular sized poster board in half.)
- Portrait Style (*not landscape-when designing*)
- Title of Book
- Author of Book
- Illustrator Name of the book (that is YOU)
- A design or picture(s) that show representation of your book.
- Book is in color

Note Cards: 5" x 8" note card(s) will be turned in with your written oral response. The note cards needs to include the following:

- *Title of book*
- *Author of the book*
- *Tell, "Why my book is a good addition for the classroom bookshelf".*

Book covers (w/ notecard) will be due the first week of school in August.

Book #2: Book List- When selecting a book, please take note of the listed reading levels and choose appropriately based on your skill level. When students return in August, they will be placed in a “Book Club” and be given a packet to work through and discuss with their group.

- One separate sheet of lined paper, your child needs to write a 3 to 5 paragraph response to the writing prompt given underneath the book you have chosen from the list.

BOOK LIST

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Reading Level- 3.9

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big, ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Writing Prompt: *Write a letter to Winn-Dixie, telling him how he has changed your summer and what you’ve learned about friendship, forgiveness, and finding joy in unexpected places.*

Brian’s Winter by Gary Paulsen

Reading Level- 5.9

Instead of being rescued from a plane crash, as in the author’s book Hatchet, this story portrays what would have happened to Brian had he been forced to survive a winter in the wilderness with only his survival pack and hatchet.

Writing Prompt: *Imagine you are Brian, and winter has just begun. Write a journal entry describing one full day of surviving in the wilderness.*

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Reading Level- 4.6

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie’s house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. It will take the love of his family and the strength that Leslie has given him for Jess to be able to deal with his grief.

Writing Prompt: *Imagine you discovered a secret place like Terabithia. Describe what it looks like, who you would bring there, and what kinds of adventures you would have. Explain why this place would be special to you.*

Holes by Louis Sachar

Reading Level- 4.6

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which is attributed to a curse, Stanley is sent to a terrible correctional camp in the Texas desert. The book has violence.

Writing Prompt: *Imagine you are a new camper arriving at Camp Green Lake. Write a journal entry describing your first day. Explain what you saw, how you felt, who you met, and what you think about having to dig a hole every day. Use details from the book to make your entry feel realistic.*

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

Reading Level- 4.8

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. Beginning from Auggie's point of view and expanding to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others, the perspectives converge to form a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope.

Writing Prompt: *Choose one act of kindness in the story. Explain how it affects Auggie and how it inspires other characters. Then describe how one small act of kindness can spread in real life.*

The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket

Reading Level- 6.4

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are intelligent children. They are charming, resourceful, and have pleasant facial features. Unfortunately, they are exceptionally unlucky.

In the first two books alone, the three youngsters encounter a greedy and repulsive villain, itchy clothing, a disastrous fire, a plot to steal their fortune, a lumpy bed, a deadly serpent, a large brass reading lamp, a long knife, and a terrible odor.

In the tradition of great storytellers, from Dickens to Dahl, comes an exquisitely dark comedy that is both literary and irreverent, hilarious and deftly crafted. Never before has a tale of three likeable and unfortunate children been quite so enchanting or quite so uproariously unhappy.

Writing Prompt: *"In The Bad Beginning, the Baudelaire children face many unfair and frightening challenges. Choose one moment in the story where Violet, Klaus, or Sunny shows courage or cleverness. Describe what happened, explain why their actions were important, and tell how you might have handled the situation if you were in their place."*

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Reading Level- 3.6

When Ivan, a gorilla that has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides he must find her a better life. Themes include animal abuse and cruelty.

Writing Prompt: *Choose two characters who show friendship in the story. Explain how their actions demonstrate what true friendship looks like.*

