



Dear 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents,

Immaculate Conception School is committed to helping students develop a love of reading and improve their reading comprehension skills. Current research on summer reading tells us that students should read during the summer to maintain independent reading levels. The intention of the summer reading expectation at ICS is to foster the continued application of the valuable reading strategies taught and developed over the course of the school year. Now, more than ever, an emphasis on reading will help your child prepare for the upcoming school year.

### **Summer Reading Expectations**

#### **I. Choice Novel**

On page 3 of this PDF, a list of choice reading material from grades 6-8 is provided. Please select the choice reading material from this list. This novel will be used at the beginning of the school year. Students will present their choice novels to the class in a presentation that they will create within the first two weeks of school **as a graded assignment for oral language and reading comprehension.**

The ELA department also encourages students to read as many books as they would like throughout the summer. Parents can use [www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org) or <https://clubs.scholastic.com> to determine appropriateness levels for their children. We encourage parents to engage their students in conversations about their reading!

#### **II. Required All-Grade Novel**

In addition to one choice novel, the entire grade will read one assigned non-fiction book. These novels can be found at your local library, Amazon, or local bookstores.

There will be a discussion on this text **graded for reading comprehension and oral language.**

- The assigned reading for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is *The Little Book of Talent: 52 Tips for Improving Your Skills* by Daniel Coyle  
ISBN-13: 978-0345530257

#### **III. Writing Journal**

Writing remains an important means by which we communicate our thoughts and feelings to others as well as a means by which we preserve our experiences and memories. Additionally, the standard of Writing in English/Language Arts holds a weight of twenty-five percent in an ICS Eagle's overall grade. With these ideas in mind, the ELA department requires that each student write throughout the summer in a composition notebook/notebook that will be collected at the beginning of the school year.

Please review the directions and rubrics listed on pages 4 & 5 of this PDF.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

-The ICS middle school language arts department



## 2024-2025 In-school ELA Reading Material

The novels listed below will be read in ELA classes. Please reserve the magic of these reading experiences for our instructional time together.

### 8th Grade Novels

	Trimester One	Trimester Two	Trimester Three
Standard	<i>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</i> by Mitch Albom	<i>The Outsiders</i> by S. E. Hinton	<i>The Boy on the Wooden Box</i> by Leon Leyson



### Choice Novels

Please select one choice novel from the following list. Choices include subcategories of classics, contemporary, and nonfiction.

	6-8 Standard-Level Choice Novels
Contemporary	<p><i>Catherine Called Birdy</i> by Karen Cushman</p> <p><i>An Elephant in the Garden</i> by Mark Murpurgo</p> <p><i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i> by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p><i>Rose Under Fire</i> by Elizabeth Wein</p> <p><i>Feathers</i> by Jacqueline Woodson</p> <p><i>The Penderwicks</i> by Jeanne Birdsall</p> <p><i>Behind the Bedroom Wall</i> by Laura E. Williams</p> <p><i>Prisoner B- 3087</i> by Alan Gratz</p> <p><i>Greenglass House</i> by Kate Milford</p> <p><i>Fever 1793</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson</p> <p><i>The Kneebone Boy</i> by Ellen Potter</p> <p><i>Charlie and Me: 421 Miles from Home</i> by Mark Lowery</p> <p><i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i> by Kelly Barnhill</p>
Classics	<p><i>Tuck Everlasting</i> by Natalie Babbitt</p> <p><i>Anne of Green Gables</i> by L. M. Montgomery</p> <p><i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> by Agatha Christie</p> <p><i>Peter Pan</i> by J. M. Barrie</p> <p><i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett</p> <p><i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding</p>
Nonfiction	<p><i>A Long Walk to Water</i> by Linda Sue Park</p> <p><i>Chasing Lincoln's Killer: The Search for John Wilkes Booth</i> by James L. Swanson</p> <p><i>The Upstairs Room</i> by Johanna Reiss (autobiography)</p> <p><i>Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story about Brain Science</i> by John Fleischman</p>



## ELA Journal Writing Assignment Summer 2024

### Directions

1. Select twelve (12) of the following prompts.
  - a. Students must have at least one journal entry from each of the prompt categories.
2. Entry format:
  - a. All entries are to be handwritten (unless a student has a documented accommodation).
  - b. Use one page per entry.
  - c. Date each entry.
  - d. Rewrite the prompt and leave a space between the entry prompt and the response.

### Summer Writing Rubric

Writing Requirements (per entry)	Points Earned	Points Possible
<b>Ideas/Content:</b> The writer's response focuses on the selected prompt and contains specific details and/or examples. Each entry (paragraph) is between <b>6-8 sentences</b> .		1
<b>Word Choice/Sentence Fluency:</b> The writer is purposeful with his or her word choice and avoids common language ("good," "nice," "things," "sad/mad," etc.). The writer varies the sentence structure within each entry.		1
<b>CUPS:</b> The writer adheres to the standards of the English language and avoids errors in capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling.		1
<b>Total</b>		3

Note: 12 entries x 3 points per entry= 36 points total → in Writing (25% of the overall ELA grade)



## **Prompt Categories**

### **Faith**

- Write a scripture that brings you joy. How can you apply it to your life?
- Write a thank you letter to Jesus for all He has done for you.
- Describe a time when God used a bad situation for your good.
- (AM/PM): AM-Set three spiritual intentions for the day. PM- Reflect on how you were able to accomplish what you set out for yourself for the day.
- What are the character attributes you think a Christian should have?

### **Personal Growth**

- What are three details about yourself that you would like your teachers to know?
- What do you want your legacy to be?
- In what ways would your younger self be proud of you? Identify at least three.
- What are three daily habits that positively impact your well being?
- Do you consider yourself to be an introvert or an extrovert? How does this compare to how others see you?

### **Argument**

- Which season is the best season- spring, summer, fall, or winter? Explain why the season you chose is the best with at least 3 supporting details.
- What is better- the pool, the ocean, or a lake? Explain why you chose your answer with at least 3 supporting details.
- What is the best song ever written? Reflect on two lyric lines from that song.
- Would you rather have a pause or a rewind button?
- Should children under the age of 13 be allowed to have Instagram, TikTok, or any other social media app? Why or why not?

### **Hypothetical**

- If you could have a dinner party with any three people (no matter the time period or location) would you invite and why? What would you all talk about?
- Pretend you found a book that lists everything anyone has ever said about you in your lifetime. Would you read it? Why or why not?
- If you could place yourself within any fictional world, which would you choose? Why?
- Would you rather travel and study the ocean or outer space? Why? What would you look for?

### **People**

- Write about a person who is a role model for you. Why do you find this person admirable? How do they inspire you?
- If you could have been someone from history, who would you have been? Why?



- Interview an adult family member, neighbor, or friend. Come up with three questions for them to answer. Talk with them and then write a summary of their answers in your journal.
- Who do you want to spend more time with? Why?
- If people become the amalgamation of the five people they spend the most time with, who are you going to be?