



Reading Assignment Summer 2024 Directions for Rising Fifth Grade Students

Dear Parents,

To ensure that students maintain the academic skills they acquired during the school year, we assign work during summer months. Summer work provides an opportunity for students to work on time management and academic skills. Scheduling work time with your child will help them reach these goals. This year we are assigning a writing journal assignment for students in grades 3-8. We feel that this will give students opportunities to practice and maintain writing skills over the summer.

This summer fifth grade students are required to:

1. **Read at least three books: one required book, one non-fiction book, and one book of choice.** Students will complete an in-class project on the required book and discuss their book of choice. **The fifth grade required book is *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling.** For their choice book students will share their favorite part and why they chose that book. We ask that students take notes (either in their books or on Post-It Notes) while they read to help them recall information. Please bring a copy of the required book to school on the first day. The in-class project and choice book sharing will both be graded.
2. Write down all books you read on the attached **Summer Reading Log** and return to your ELA teacher on the first day of school. *In order to avoid confusion, do not hand work to your homeroom teacher.*
3. **Complete a summer writing journal with 10 entries.** See the attached sheet for directions, prompts, and a grading rubric.

Please see the attached list of book suggestions. These are suggested books and series that we hope appeal to a variety of interests. We have provided classics along with more recently published books. Do not let this list limit you. Feel free to choose other books. Visit the local library to browse the selections. Thank you for your continued partnership in strengthening your child's skills and fostering a love of learning. We are looking forward to seeing what you read over the summer. Best wishes for a safe, happy, and fun-filled summer!

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade Teachers

Rising 5th Grade Summer Journal Prompts 2024

Directions

- Choose **ten** prompts to write about this summer.
- Try to do one journal entry per week rather than write all at once.
- Please write in a composition notebook. This will be used in ELA class during the school year.
- Write the date and the # of the prompt on the top line. Use a new page for each entry.
- Write a paragraph of at least 5 sentences. Do not forget to indent and proofread your writing.

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| 1 What are at least three things you want your new teacher to know about you? | 2 Describe someone who is a hero to you. Explain why. | 3 What would your ideal job be when you grow up? Explain. | 4 What if you were named principal for the week. What would you do? |
| 5 Imagine you woke up and saw a dinosaur in your backyard. Write a story telling what you see and do. | 6 Which character from a book would you most like to meet and why? | 7 Write about what you would do if someone gave you one million dollars. | 8 Tell about your favorite summer adventure. It could be a trip, a camp, or a day spent with a friend. |
| 9 Imagine you woke up and you were one inch tall. Write about your day. | 10 What is your favorite place? Describe what you like to do there. | 11 Create a monster? What does it look like? What can it do? | 12 Imagine you could talk to animals. Describe what a day at the zoo would be like. |
| 13 What is your favorite kind of weather? Why? | 14 Write a short biography of yourself. | 15 What is the best way to spend a rainy day? | 16 What are your goals for fifth grade ? |
| 17 Think about a person who makes you feel loved. Write a thank you note to that person. | 18 If you could go back in time to any event in the life of Jesus what would it be? Describe it and tell why you chose it. | 19 If you could do something you have never done before, what would it be and why? | 20 If you could make one wish come true, what would it be and why? |

Scoring Rubric

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| I have responded to 10 of the prompts listed in paragraph form. My paragraphs are at least five sentences (2 points each). | / 20 points |
| I have used proper capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling. | / 4 points |
| Total | / 24 points |

**Suggested Books for Rising Fifth Grade Students
Summer 2024**

Recommended Fiction Books

- 100 Dresses – Eleanor Estes
- A Series of Unfortunate Events – Lemony Snickett
- A Wolf Called Wander – Rosanne Parry
- Al Capone Does my Shirts – Gennifer Choldenko
- Black Stallion – Walter Farley
- Brown Girl Dreaming – Jacqueline Woodson
- Bud, Not Buddy – Christopher Paul Curtis
- Caddie Woodlawn – Carol Ryrie Brink
- Catherine Called Birdy – Karen Cushman
- Escape From Mr. Lemoncello’s Library – Chris Grabenstein
- Escape to Witch Mountain – Alexander Key
- Farewell to Manzanar – John Houston and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston
- Finding Langston – Lisa Cline Dansome
- Front Desk – Kelly Yang
- Guest: A Changeling Tale – Mary Downing Hahn
- Harriet the Spy – Louise Fitzhugh
- One Crazy Summer – Rita Williams- Garcia
- Operation Frog Effect – Sarah Lynne Scheerger
- P.S. Be Eleven – Rita Williams – Garcia
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Mildred Taylor
- Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Sign of the Beaver – Elizabeth George Speare
- Song for a Whale – Lynne Kelly
- Souder – William H. Armstrong
- Stargazing – Jen Yang
- The Dreamer – Pam Munoz- Ryan
- The Cay – Theodore Taylor
- The Light Jar - Lisa Thompson
- The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane- Kate DiCamillo
- The Red Badge of Courage – Stephen Crane
- The River Between Us – Richard Peck
- The One and Only Bob – Katherine Applegate
- The One and Only Ruby- Katherine Applegate
- The One and Only Family- Katherine Applegate
- The Trial – Meika Hashimoto
- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle – Avi
- The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA – Brenda Woods
- The Unteachables – Gordon Korman
- This Was Our Pact – Andrew Ryan
- Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech

- Words on Fire – Jennifer Nielsen

Recommended Non-Fiction Books

- A Hot Planet Needs Cool Kids: Understanding Climate Change and What You Can Do About It – Julie Hall
- Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart - Candace Fleming
- Childhood of Famous Americans Series
- Everything Kids Environment Book - Sheri Amsel
- Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes - Pamela Turner
- Manhattan – Mapping the Story of an Island - Jennifer Therme
- Pick Me Up: Stuff You Need to Know - Jeremy Leslie and David Roberts
- Rocket to the Moon – Big Ideas that Changed the World – Don Brown
- Rosa’s Animals - Maryann MacDonald
- The Girl Who Drew Butterflies – Joyce Sidman
- The Grapes of Math - Gregory Tang
- Two Truths and a Lie - Paquette and Thompson

Recommended Authors

- Andrew Clements
- Gordon Korman
- Kate DiCamillo
- Katherine Paterson
- James Patterson
- Lois Lowry
- Patricia Reilly Giff
- Roald Dahl