



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 see direction and rubrics on pages 4 and 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
Advanced	<i>Navigating Early</i> by Claire Vanderpool  <i>Beyond the Bright Sea</i> by Lauren Wolk	<i>The Outsiders</i> by S. E. Hinton  <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare	(continuation from Trimester 2) <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare  <i>Night</i> by Elie Wiesel



### Choice Novels

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

	6-8 Advanced-Level Choice Novels
Contemporary	<p><i>Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two</i> by Joseph Bruchac</p> <p><i>Refugee</i> by Alan Gratz</p> <p><i>Song for a Whale</i> by Lynne Kelly</p> <p><i>Cinder</i> by Marissa Meyer</p> <p><i>A Night Divided</i> by Jennifer Neilsen</p> <p><i>The False Prince</i> by Jennifer Neilsen</p> <p><i>Pax</i> by Sara Pennypacker</p> <p><i>Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pies</i> by Sonnenblick</p> <p><i>Under the Persimmon Tree</i> by Suzanne Fisher Staples</p> <p><i>The Book Thief</i> by Mark Zusak</p> <p><i>Inside Out and Back Again</i> by Thanhha Lai</p> <p><i>Clean Getaway</i> by Nic Stone</p>
Classics	<p><i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott</p> <p><i>Oliver Twist</i> by Charles Dickens</p> <p><i>Black Beauty</i> by Anne Sewell</p> <p><i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i> by J. R. R. Tolkein</p> <p><i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain</p> <p><i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell</p>
Nonfiction	<p><i>Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist</i> by Sylvia Acevedo</p> <p><i>Warriors Don't Cry</i> by Melba Pattillo Beals</p> <p><i>The Making of America: Abraham Lincoln</i> by Teri Kanefield</p> <p><i>The Making of America: Susan B. Anthony</i> by Teri Kanefield</p> <p><i>The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure</i> by Martin W. Sandler</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?