

SAGE Summer Homework for Incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders

Third Grade:

Students should read the book “El Deafo” by Cece Bell. Be prepared to have discussions about the book during the first week back to school in September. Be able to answer the questions:

**What kind of character is Cece?*

**How has she changed from the beginning of the book to the end?*

(Students should also read many other books which they enjoy during the summer).

Students should practice math facts for addition and subtraction and practice multiplication if they have begun learning it. It’s also a great idea for students to write and keep a journal throughout the summer.

Fourth Grade:

Students should read the book “Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen and be prepared to discuss the book during the first week of school. Students are encouraged to take notes on how the protagonist’s thoughts, words, and actions make the character complicated. We will also discuss the setting and theme.

The fourth grade teachers recommend practicing basic multiplication facts. Our first math unit focuses on long division, and mastering multiplication facts will make long division much easier.

Fifth Grade:

During the summer break, prior to returning to school in September, you are required to read ***The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963***, by Christopher Paul Curtis. You should be able to easily acquire a copy of this text in a public library, or any book store (check Half-Price Books too). We have a limited number of these books available in the Westwood office (5 copies) that can be checked out. If you do check out the book from a public library, keep in mind that **you will need a book in your hands to refer to during the first 2 weeks of the school year.**

When you return to school in September, (literally – the first day of school), we will begin using this shared text to discuss many aspects of characters in novels. Some of the things that we will be looking at will include:

- **Descriptions of characters beyond external features: Internal characteristics, speech/message characteristics, flat/round characters, static/dynamic characters, two and three dimensional characters, stock characters, dubious characters.**

- Characters' importance in a story: what part they play in the events (why did the author put them there at that time?).
- Motivations of characters.
- Significance of the actions of characters.
- How characters relate to one another, as well as to the themes of the novel.
- What happens to the characters?
- What the author thinks of the characters and what other characters think of them.
- Capacity of the characters to change themselves or others.
- In addition, we will look at the historical context of the novel, and many aspects of the plot.

Plan to read the complete text at least two times. If you are planning to read it right away this summer, plan to read it again closer to the start of the school year.

YOU SHOULD WRITE A SUMMARY OF EACH CHAPTER - ABOUT 3-5 SENTENCES - THAT YOU WILL KEEP IN A NOTEBOOK OR A SET OF STAPLED PAGES. YOU WILL NEED THESE SUMMARIES FOR THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL.

We also expect that you will have written some notes to yourself as you read the novel. Plan to use post-it notes (Sticky Notes, Think Marks) as you read your text. This tool should be used to help you record your thinking in a fast way, especially when highlighting is not an option.

Remember to:

- Put the book title and page number on the note so that you can refer back to that place in the book. You might think that you'll remember, but you won't.
- Use the prompts provided to begin your thinking about writing the notes.
- Your notes need to have something "important" written on them. To say, "Interesting part," "Wow," "Funny part," or "Good word" tells you nothing about the book. Find the "spark."
- DO NOT SORT/TOSS notes until you are asked to do so! We will reread and sort notes later.
- Depending on the number of pages read, you may have 3 (minimum) to 15-20 notes during each reading session. This is not a competition- don't compete for the least or most notes in the class. You should remember that the notes are a tool for you.

We are looking forward to meeting with you and getting to know you as readers! Be sure to set a reading goal for yourself this summer and enjoy the time you have this summer to savor what you're reading.