



2024

Dear Middle Schoolers,

Summer is finally here, and one thing that I always look forward to during my vacation is relaxing with a great book. This summer, I would like to see you read or write for at least 30 minutes daily, four days a week.

This summer, your assignment is a little different. For the reading portion of the summer, you will be reading at least **three books** of your choice. **One** must be written in **verse** (Which means it is written in poetry form), **One** audiobook, and **one** free choice. For the writing portion of the summer assignment, you will be responding to **Three journal prompts**.

Reading: I would like you to record the title and author of each book and give it a star rating. I will provide you with a reading tracker for this, but if you misplace it, you may record the three items: title, author, and rating, on a piece of paper.

I want you to choose interesting titles that challenge you to step outside your box. You may choose all of your books, but they must be grade-level and age-appropriate. In case you are feeling stuck, I also provided a list below. These books are all taken from either a classical book list, the Maine Student Book Awards, or the Newbery Honor List. They range from lighter to more challenging classical texts. Remember to read something that you have not read before, mix and match genres, and choose something that sounds entertaining. I mean, it is summer after all!

In the fall, I will choose one title from your list and have you give a brief book talk to the class.

Writing: For your writing assignment, I want you to choose three prompts from the list below to respond to. Each response should be a minimum of two paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain at least six sentences. You may choose to handwrite these responses or type them. You will choose one of your responses to share with the class in the fall. Be creative, use your imagination, and add lots of details.

See you in the Fall!

Mrs. Loubier

Book Titles *You may choose titles NOT on this list.

Call It Courage, by Armstrong Sperry

The Summer of the Swans, by Betsy Byars

The Trumpeter of Krakow, by Eric P. Kelly

The Graveyard Book, by Neil Gaiman

Wildoak, by C.C. Harrington

A Day No Pigs Would Die, by Robert Newton Peck

The Hiding Place, by Corrie Ten Boom

The False Prince, by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Across Five Aprils, by Irene Hunt

Summer of My German Soldier, by Bette Greene

Christy, by Catherine Marshall

A Night to Remember: The Sinking of the Titanic, by Walter Lord

The Miracle Worker, by William Gibson

Anne of Green Gables, by L.M. Montgomery

Lifeling, by Kirsty Applebaum

Gabe in the After, by Shannon Doleski

Learning to Fall, by Sally Engelfried

This Appearing House, by Ally Malinweko

Summer Reading Must-Do's

Read a minimum of three books. *One in Verse, One audio, One free choice.* Fill out the reading tracker and be prepared to pass it in on the first day of school. I will choose a title from your tracker and have you give a brief book talk to the class.

Summer Writing Must-Do's

Choose a minimum of three prompts from the list provided. You may type your responses or write them by hand. Each response should be a minimum of six sentences. Be sure to include lots of sensory details, and write in complete sentences. I will choose one of your responses and have you share it with the class in the fall.

Writing Prompts

Narrative writing involves a story, dialogue, and the retelling of an event from a character's point of view.

Heat Wave: Your big cousin is getting married this weekend at a remote resort with no air conditioning and it just hit 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Is this heat wave going to ruin this family event you've been waiting months for?

Ride Along: You've been looking forward to a summer road trip in your family's new R.V. but when it come time for you to leave, _____ arrives and says they are going to be tagging along. Will _____'s presence ruin all of the fun you were planning on having? Will you still be able to stop at the places on your bucket list? How will you manage to still have an epic summer?

Picnic Message: You go on a picnic and find ants swarming your food. You are about to shoo them away when you realize they are forming themselves into letters. They have a message for you. What is it? Will you follow their instructions? What happens next?

Buried Treasure: One day at the beach you discover a message in a bottle that contains a map of buried treasure. What obstacles do you face searching for the treasure? What type of treasure is it?

Summer Camp: It's your first summer at sleep away camp and you are put in a bunk with kids completely opposite from you. What shenanigans do you come up with to switch bunks to be with your friends?

Expository writing, also called information writing, relies on facts; it's the type of writing you find in textbooks. While this type of writing usually involves research, you can write about something with which you are already familiar.

A Popular Vacation Spot: Tell about a popular vacation spot. What can you do there? What is it known for?

All About Snorkeling: What do you need to go snorkeling? Should you keep safety tips in mind? What should you expect to see?

How to Make Money This Summer: Describe three ways for a middle schooler to make money during the summer.

How to Keep Cool This Summer: Write a short article on 3 ways to stay cool during the summer.

How to Play a Game: Write directions for playing a game-whether that is a board game, an outdoor game, or a video game.

Descriptive Writing. Use your five senses to help your reader picture what they are reading.

Describe What It is Like to Hold Your Breath Underwater: Have you ever dunked underwater in a pool or the ocean and held your breath? What do you see, hear, and feel?

Describe a Frozen Treat: Tell about each moment of eating the treat, from picking it up, unwrapping it, and taking the first bite. Which treat will you pick: an ice cream cone, a fruity popsicle, or Italian gelati?

Describe How You Feel on a Summer Night: Have you ever walked outside on a summer night? What do you notice? Describe what you see, hear, smell, and feel.

Free Write Write about whatever you want. Tell me about a particular day, something that is on your mind, something you are looking forward to, or just make up a story.



I hope that you have a fantastic summer. Remember to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. Now is the time to swim, hike, camp, and roast marshmallows. I can't wait to hear about your summer adventures. I don't want anyone to say that they did nothing or that they played video games all summer long... Read, write, and be active!

Have a blessed summer!

Mrs. Loubier