



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Putting Faith in Our Future † PRE K - 8TH GRADE

Summer Reading For Middle School

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Name _____



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Dear students,

June 2018

Welcome to summer! We endured a long, cold winter to get here, and I know you all have exciting plans to fill your summer days. One of the things I most look forward to during the summer is more opportunities to read. I literally line up books all year (on a shelf at home) and plan what I will have time for during the summer. I dream all winter of lounging at the beach or the backyard and reading a book - just for fun. I LOVE reading!! In fact, one of the reasons I decided to go into teaching is because I really love reading and want to pass that love onto students.

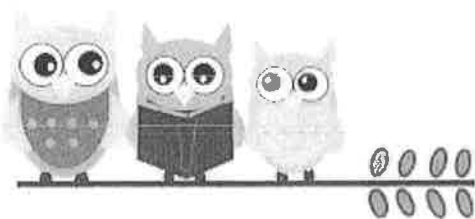


Now if you love reading (or at least like it), hopefully you are looking forward to a summer of reading fun too. However, I have been teaching for awhile, and now recognize that by this point in my letter some of you have already thought, or exclaimed out loud, "I hate reading!" Hopefully, at some point I will change your mind about this, but unfortunately, there may not be too much I can do right this minute to work on that. I am optimistic that the summer work is as painless as I can possible make it for you (if you currently find reading painful. I hope not!), but it is still with the understanding that you are reading.

Why read? Educational study after study show that the more students read, the better readers they become. Many studies also show that students who read at least four books during summer break, avoid the "summer slide," that terrible condition where students regress with their knowledge and skills. I also know that reading improves your vocabulary and writing skills. I want you to succeed in school and life, and strong reading skills will help you do this.



On the following pages, you will find the summer reading requirements. Basically, you read 2 fiction books at your current, appropriate reading level, and you complete the worksheet of notes on each. Yes, we will do some deeper writing in the fall, when we return, because I also LOVE writing, and it is my responsibility to help you also become a stronger writer. But let's not worry about that until fall.



Sincerely,

Mrs. Pallante
Mrs. Pallante

jpallante@nativityschool.net
Twitter @TeachEla27



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Directions for Summer Reading for Incoming 6th, 7th and 8th graders

Summer Reading in a Nutshell

- Choose a minimum of two books and read them.
- Keep track of your reading on your reading log.
- Complete fiction worksheet for each book.
- Be prepared to discuss and write about your books during the first weeks of school in September.

Choosing a Novel

There is no novel list that you must choose from, but you must select summer reading books wisely. Here are the guidelines:

- For the two worksheets, you need to select fiction novels (any genre). Beyond that, you may also read non-fiction.
- You may not read books you have read before.
- You may not read books that have been made into movies, unless you include a short write-up explaining differences between the two.
- Novels should be at your appropriate reading level and around 200 pages or more. Don't select a novel just because it is short, and you don't want to read. Then you are missing the point of summer reading.
- The *Diary of the Wimpy Kid* books, or any other novel with large print and drawings, do not count as one of your books because I do not feel there is 200 pages of writing. You may read them, and put them on the list, but you need to read two other novels as well.

I want you to enjoy reading this summer, and not just “get through” a book I assigned you, but the novel you select should help advance your reading ability and literature analysis.



Reading Log

- Attached you will find your summer reading log.
- For each book you begin, fill out the required information in each column
- Make sure you complete the reading log as you finish a book.



→ Ten Book Challenge ←

Students who read TEN or more novels this summer will have successfully completed the TEN BOOK CHALLENGE and will be eligible for a reward in the fall and on their way to the Excellence in Reading Award in June 2019. All TEN books must be around 200 pages or more. If you want to be eligible for the reward, make sure you are keeping accurate records on your reading log. If you need another log (because you read so many books) go to Google Classroom and download another one.

Worksheets

- ✓ After you finish each novel, complete the worksheet for it.
- ✓ If you need additional worksheets, you can download them from Google Classroom.

Grading

- 📖 Each completed novel and worksheet is worth 25 points.
- 📖 Bring back the entire packet still stapled together.
- 📖 If you read 3 novels and complete three worksheets, you have a 75 out of 50 points.
- 📖 Our first fall writing assignments will be based on the books you read. You don't have to bring the books with you, but make sure you have completely filled out the worksheets.

Final Thoughts

You should be reading regularly. The point of summer reading is to practice reading. You will never improve your reading skills if you don't read. I am sure you want to start your next school off with your best foot forward, and improving your reading skills will help you with that. Please make sure you look at the graphic included on why you should read at least 20 minutes a day. I am not here to "ruin your summer." I want you to leave Nativity and be the most successful student you can be. Reading will make that easier for you. You know what "they" say, "Practice makes perfect!" I am sure you can find some time regularly this summer to read, and hopefully, not only will you improve, but you will also enjoy what you read. I can't wait to hear all about the books you discovered in the fall!!

My Sumer Novel Log

2018

On this novel log page, you will record all books you **begin**.

1. As soon as you **START** a new book record the date, title, and author.
2. When you finish, record the date you finished (or an A for abandoned if you didn't finish it), give it a star rating (see below), and a genre code (see below)
3. Then start reading your next book immediately.

Rating

1=I didn't like it. I could have been reading something more interesting.

2=It isn't my cup of tea, but I don't feel like I wasted my time on it.

3=It was alright. I'm not sorry I read it, but I probably won't ever reread it.

4=I really enjoyed it. I would recommend this to friend

5=It was fabulous. I want to shout from the rooftops how terrific it was. I feel a little sad I finished it and there is no more.

Genre Codes

Realistic Fiction = RF

Historical Fiction = HF

Fantasy = F

Science Fiction = SF

Mystery = M

Traditional Literature = TL

Poetry = P

Biography, Autobiography, Memoir = BAM

Informational Non-Fiction = I

Graphic Novels = GN

#	Date Started	Title	Pages	Rating
	Date Completed	Author		Genre
1	_____	_____		_____
2	_____	_____		_____

#	Date Started	Title	Pages	Rating
	Date Completed	Author		Genre
3	_____	_____		_____
4	_____	_____		_____
5	_____	_____		_____
6	_____	_____		_____
7	_____	_____		_____
8	_____	_____		_____
9	_____	_____		_____
10	_____	_____		_____
11	_____	_____		_____
12	_____	_____		_____

Nativity of Our Lord School
Summer Reading – Fiction Notes

Reader _____ Date _____

Directions: Complete both sides of this worksheet, using specific text evidence and your neatest handwriting. Please look up definitions for any plot diagram sections you do not understand.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Publishing Company: _____

City: _____ Copyright Date: _____

Memorable Quotes

Directions: Select TWO direct quotes from your novel, write them down exactly as they appear in the book, and explain what makes them so memorable to you. Why, out of all the words in the novel, did you select this quote?

Quote 1 _____

Page # _____

Why it is memorable? _____

Quote 2 _____

Page # _____

Why it is memorable? _____

Plot Diagram - Fiction

Title _____

Author _____

5. _____

4. _____

3. _____

2. _____

1. _____

CLIMAX:

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Falling Action

Rising Action

RESOLUTION

EXPOSITION

Characters: _____

Setting: Time & Place: _____

Conflict: _____

THEME (central idea or message of story):

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Plot Diagram - Fiction

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Author _____

5. _____

4. _____

3. _____

2. _____

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CLIMAX:

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