

## Middle School Language Arts Summer Work for 2017

Dear Students and Parents,

“Research shows that leisure reading enhances students’ reading comprehension, vocabulary development, general knowledge, and empathy for others, as well as their self-confidence as readers, motivation to read throughout their lives, and positive attitudes toward reading.” (NCTE Journal)

I am a firm believer in students choosing their own books to read over the summer. I would like the students to read a **minimum of 3 books**. Since the common core standards place a greater emphasis on nonfiction, I would like each student to read at least 1 book of nonfiction. All books should have a minimum of 150 pages. (If students read a book that is 350 or more pages, they make count it as 2 books; however, they must respond to the book in two different ways.)

Choose a different way to respond to each of the 3 books you read from the list below.

### **Choose a book you’ve read this summer and...**

- Draw a map of the setting.
- Write a short story about what the character(s) would be doing one year later.
- Imagine you could interview the protagonist. What three questions would you ask?
- Redesign the cover.
- Write a letter to the author or illustrator.
- Write a short book review. Remember to include a few sentences describing the book as well as a few sentences about why you liked it—or didn’t.
- Choose two people or characters from two different books that you think would be great friends. Why?
- Choose one book location or setting to live in for a week—it can be fiction or nonfiction. Which book would you choose and why?
- Take a photo of the cover of each book you read. Create a photo collage or animated trailer. (Free programs like Animoto might be a fun choice.)
- Recommend a book to a friend or family member. Which title did you choose and why did you recommend it?

(Parrott)

- \* Create a digital commercial for your book encouraging other students to read it.

Be ready to present these responses to your classmates the first week of school, August 16-18.

In addition to reading, student will need to practice all the starred language arts skills at their grade level on IXL.com. Students should reach a minimum of 80% on each skill.

Have a great summer and happy reading!

Sarah Gaither

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