

# Highland Middle School – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



## Summer Reading & Writing Assignments

Welcome to Sixth Grade Language Arts! This year, we will explore an abundance of literature. Many units will include an in-depth look at various literary elements as well as the comprehension skills necessary to analyze fiction and nonfiction text.

We will begin our year by immersing the students into various genres, and throughout the year, students will be challenged by reading a variety of novels with the use of the Accelerated Reader program. We invite you to begin the journey to reading success!

Please select **one** book from the following list **that you have NOT read**. Sixth graders are expected to read and complete the project by the due date. These books share similar themes. Our first unit will focus on determining the theme of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details.

All of these books are accelerated reader books. To access the book (reading) level and point level for these, please go to [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com). Students will have the opportunity to take the Accelerated Reader quiz on their chosen book within the first week of school. This quiz will be completed on a computer at school, and it will allow students to begin earning Accelerated Reader points for the first quarter. Questions on the quiz will relate to the plot development of the story.

Happy Reading! We look forward to meeting everyone in August.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Raub & Mrs. Reynolds - Language Arts Teachers

Mrs. Malquest & Mrs. Dawson - Intervention Specialists

### Book Choices for Summer Reading (select one):

| Book Title & Author   | Genre              | Reading Level | AR Points |
|---|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| <u>Peak</u> by Roland Smith   | Adventure          | 5.0           | 9.0       |
| <u>Loser</u> by Jerry Spinelli  | Realistic Fiction  | 4.3           | 5.0       |
| <u>Shipwreck</u> (Island, Book #1) by Gordan Korman   | Adventure          | 4.4           | 5.0       |
| <u>The Phantom Tollbooth</u> by Norton Juster   | Fantasy            | 6.7           | 7.0       |
| <u>Among the Hidden</u> by Margaret Peterson Haddix   | Dystopia w/ Sci-Fi | 4.8           | 5.0       |
| <u>Wonderstruck</u> by Brian Selznick   | Adventure          | 5.4           | 4.0       |
| <u>A Storm Too Soon</u> (Young Reader's Edition) by Michael J. Tougias  | Nonfiction         | 7.3           | 9.0       |
| <u>Framed!</u> by James Ponti*<br>*Note the author – could be confused with another book with similar book title. | Mystery            | 5.5           | 8.0       |

# Assignment #1: Book Project



**Directions:** Pretend that an advertising firm has hired you to create a flyer that will be used to promote this book. Create a colorful and attractive handout/flyer to advertise the book of your choice, and be prepared to share this final product with your classmates in August. Hopefully, we will have many great book recommendations to get our school year started!

**The advertisement should be completed on 8.5" by 11" unlined/computer paper.** The assignment may be typed or handwritten. Please follow the directions below and carefully check the rubric for the grading criteria.

- Write the title and author of the book. Make the title stand out by using large, dark, and bold letters.
- Include a drawing that highlights a main event in the novel. Please draw your own illustration. Write a caption for the drawing that describes the event, along with an explanation of why this event is important in the story. **Do not** include an event that may spoil the ending.
- Include one significant or interesting direct quote from the novel. The quote must include quotation marks and page number. Also, explain in your own words **WHY** this quote is an important part of the book.
- Add your personal recommendation that clearly explains why the book is worth reading.
- Include anything else that you think might “sell” your book to another sixth grader.
- Proofread and edit your work carefully.

**Summer Book Project Due Date: Friday, August 23, 2019 (4<sup>th</sup> day of school)**

| Criteria                                   | 3   | 2  | 1  | 0  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Title and Author</b>                    | The title of the book and author’s name are included. The title of book stands out and is written correctly.  | The title and author are included. The title does not stand out and/or is written incorrectly.   | Either the title or author is missing.   | Both the title of book and the author’s name is missing.                                   |
| <b>Drawing and caption of a main event</b> | An attractive drawing shows an important scene from the plot. The student included a descriptive caption to explain the event.  | The drawing and caption are included but it is not clear why the event is relevant. Did not include an event description <u>or</u> an explanation of the importance. | The drawing is missing an event description <u>and</u> an explanation of the importance.   | There is no drawing included on the report.  |
| <b>Interesting quote or line</b>           | There is an interesting quote from the novel which includes quotation marks and page number. The student also explains why the quote is significant.  | There is a quote from the novel; however, the student doesn’t explain why the quote is significant or doesn’t include quotation marks and/or page number.            | The quote from the book does not include quotation marks and/or page number <b>AND</b> the student failed to explain why the quote is significant. | The student does not include a line or quote from the book.                                |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                      | The student tells why others would enjoy this book. The recommendation is written with the intent of sixth graders as the target audience. It is specific and meaningful.                                 | The student includes a recommendation; however, it’s not very meaningful because the recommendation does not relate to sixth graders.                                | The student’s recommendation is unclear or confusing to the reader and it is not evident why the book is recommended.                              | There is no recommendation included in the report.   |
| <b>Creativity and neatness</b>             | The report is neat, pleasant to look at, and leaves the reader with a positive image. It is clear that the student put forth effort to make the report look attractive. There is very little white space. | The book report meets the requirements but lacks creativity. Little thought went into the arrangement of details. There are sections of white space.                 | The report is somewhat sloppy and looks as if it was completed quickly and was not edited for grammar and spelling.                                | The book report lacks effort. There is little color or the report is not edited carefully. |

## Assignment #2: Personal Narrative



**Directions:** Your task is to write a personal narrative. A personal narrative allows the writer to share a meaningful event in his/her life with the reader. Personal narratives can share a moment in your life that lasted a few minutes to an event that spanned over one year. Personal narratives can focus on people who have positively impacted your life, along with your personal beliefs or aspirations in life. The bottom line with a personal narrative is that it allows the reader to get to know **you** better!

Select one of these writing prompts for your personal narrative:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>Who is the most inspirational person in your life? How does he or she inspire you?</i> | <i>What is the most selfless thing you've ever done? Why did you do it?</i>                              |
| <i>What do you want to be when you grow up? How will you get there?</i>                   | <i>If you could go back in time to witness any single historical event, which would you choose? Why?</i> |

Once you have selected your writing prompt, please attempt to follow these requirements as best as you can:

- ✓ Must be written in the first person point-of-view (I, we, me, us, etc.).
- ✓ Includes lively, active verbs.
- ✓ Includes sensory language that appeals to the readers' five senses.
- ✓ Transitional words and phrases.
- ✓ Varied sentence length.
- ✓ Descriptive adjectives and adverbs sprinkled throughout.
- ✓ May be typed or handwritten.
- ✓ Three paragraphs with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Finally, this personal narrative will be used as an ice-breaker in class. In addition, this writing assignment will allow your teacher to assess strengths/weaknesses which then we can focus upon as a class during the school year. This narrative is for a completion grade worth 15 points. The personal narrative is due on **Friday, August 23, 2019.**

