

Cambridge School  
Rising 5th Grade 2023-2024  
Summer Enrichment

**Reading:** Over the summer, you will read *My Side of the Mountain*. (**IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BOOK IN JUNE, PLEASE CONTACT [office@cambridgeschool.org](mailto:office@cambridgeschool.org) to request a copy**). This novel follows the story of Sam Gibley, a teenage boy who decides to leave his home in New York City to live alone in the Catskill Mountains. Along the way, Sam makes profound connections with God's creation, relying on nature for everything from companionship to survival. After reading the novel, you will **complete the attached Book Review** and **choose and complete 2 activities below**. All activities are due on the first day of school. All pictures can be sent to me. (Note: some activities require adult permission and/or supervision. Those activities are starred.\*\*\*\*\*)

- Write a list of instructions to complete a specific skill or craft. Make sure your instructions are detailed so that someone with no experience could complete the skill or craft successfully.
- Make a detailed, colorful illustration of a scene from the story. On the back, write a paragraph explaining what scene you chose and why.
- \*\*\*\*\* Make acorn pancakes or blueberry jam. Take pictures of the process and be prepared to share with the class about your experience.
- \*\*\*\*\* Visit a park or wooded area and write a detailed description of what you see around you. Your description should be at least two paragraphs long.
- \*\*\*\*\* Research what wild plants are edible in your area and then go foraging in nature to find some. Taking necessary precautions for health and safety, try eating some of the plants you find. Take pictures and be prepared to share with the class about your experience.
- Spend at least 30 minutes outside in the same spot. Choose 2-3 animals that you see and give them names, personalities, and back stories just like Sam does in the novel. Write all of this down to turn in along with hand drawn pictures of the animals.
- Read the sequel, *On the Far Side of the Mountain*, and complete the attached book review for that novel also.

- Observe and record weather patterns over the course of a few days. Write down what patterns you see and record what clues you find in clouds, leaves, and the behavior of birds and animals, especially when a storm is coming.
- Make a fish hook out of twigs or other materials you find in nature. Take pictures of your hook and be prepared to show it to the class and explain how you made it.
- \*\*\*\*\* Make a shelter either inside or outside in the woods, using whatever materials you can find. Take pictures of your shelter and be prepared to tell the class how you made it.
- Research and write a short report on the training that is required to be a professional falconer. Your report should be at least 2 paragraphs long.

**Math:** Please see included math letter and materials sent home by Mrs. Robbins.

**Typing:** This summer students will begin using a new typing program from [typingclub.com](http://typingclub.com). This online typing program teaches students to touch type without looking at the keyboard. Starting with the “home keys” and moving to more complex keystrokes, this program will increase the speed and ease with which our students type. We hope this builds a strong foundation so that our students can more effectively use technology when necessary.

Students may go at their own pace, but should **complete all of the lessons through lesson 52**. The lessons are only about 2-3 minutes each. Students may go beyond lesson 52 if they would like and can keep track of their progress on the class leaderboard. I will also be able to track their progress through the lessons. We will continue to use this program during the school year as well. **Login instructions will be shared via email.**

Parents, please ensure that your child is using proper finger placement on the keys. Time spent completing the assignments will not be as fruitful if students use improper hand placement or “hunt and peck.” In addition, it will make it more difficult to successfully complete more advanced lessons in the program.