

Cambridge School
2023 - 2024
Summer Enrichment for Incoming 7th Grade

This summer's reading requirement is to read *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor. I chose this book because it is well written and appropriate for 7th-grade-level reading and reflects the themes of racial injustice found in the United States during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. **IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BOOK, PLEASE HAVE A PARENT CONTACT THE FRONT OFFICE AT office@cambridgeschool.org TO REQUEST COPIES.**

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is the compelling story of the author's father and her own experiences living in an unjust American society and how their family overcomes those challenges with compassion, tenacity, and hope. You will share your thoughts with me orally when we convene in September in class discussions and Socratic Seminars.

Please establish a consistent quiet time for reading during the summer months. I have found that quiet times following lunch or before "lights out" at night is the best time for many families schedules. Please work on finding your best time for **consistent daily reading.**

There is NO additional reading required; however, I highly recommend the following books to sustain the habit of reading living books. These are just a few suggestions that my students and I have enjoyed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule</i> by Harriette Gillem Robinet ● <i>The Seeds of America Trilogy</i> by Laurie Halse Anderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Chains</i> ○ <i>Forge</i> ○ <i>Ashes</i> ● <i>The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr</i> by Judith St. George ● <i>Souder</i> by William Armstrong. ● <i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i> by Wilson Rawls ● <i>Private Peaceful</i> by Michael Morpurgo ● <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry ● <i>Out of the Dust</i> by Karen Hesse ● <i>The Wingfeather Saga</i> by Andrew Peterson. ● Any <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i> by C.S. Lewis (if they haven't already been read). (We will be reading <i>A Horse and His Boy</i> as a class this year). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>My Name is America</i> Series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Journal of James Edmond Pease A Civil War Union Soldier</i> by Jim Murphy ○ <i>Until the Last Spike: The Journal of Sean Sullivan, a Transcontinental Railroad Worker, Nebraska, and Points West, 1867</i> by William Durbin ○ <i>Staking a Claim: The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung, a Chinese Miner, California, 1852</i> by Laurence Yep ○ <i>On This Long Journey: The Journal of Jesse Smoke, a Cherokee Boy, The Trail of Tears, 1838</i> by Joseph Bruchac ○ <i>Blazing West: The Journal of Augustus Pelletier, Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804</i> by Kathryn Lasky. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Dear America</i> Series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>A Picture of Freedom, Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859 The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl</i> by Patricia McKissack ○ <i>Voyage on the Great Titanic</i> by Ellen Emerson White ○ <i>When Will This Cruel War Be Over?: The Diary of Emma Simpson, Gordonsville, Virginia, 1864</i> by Barry Denenberg ○ <i>I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl, Mars Bluff, South Carolina, 1865</i> by Joyce Hansen
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Summer Writing Assignment

Writing and reading are both skills that must be nurtured to become habits. In an effort to enhance the joy of reading for reading's sake while including the opportunity of experiencing the satisfaction of writing, the writing assignment is **NOT** related in any way to the reading assignment.

Rather, I'd like to offer a number of independent and creative options for the writing portion of the summer assignments.

Directions: Please choose from **ONE** of the assignments below. Assignments should be no shorter than six pages, double-spaced, typed (**Assignments 1 and 2 may be handwritten**) in Google Docs, 12pt, and Times New Roman Font.

1. **Write** six 1-page notes to family members or friends describing your summer activities, vacations, out-of-town visitors, family time, etc. Try to space each letter approximately 1-2 weeks apart so that you are writing just 2-3 notes each month of July and August. Send it to the chosen person, making a copy to submit to me on the first day of school. Typing is **NOT** necessary if you choose this assignment, but your written work should contain enough text to equal approximately 6 typed pages, double-spaced.
2. **Write** regularly in a journal, recording summer activities, thoughts, prayers, goals, accomplishments, etc. Each entry can be as long or short as desired. Entries should be well-written with complete, grammatically correct sentences. Typing is **NOT** necessary if you choose this assignment, but your entries should cover approximately six pages when viewed together. Scrapbooking has been done in the past with great success. If you decide to handwrite this assignment, please make copies to submit to me.
3. Rewrite (**Type**) the ending of a favorite novel, story, or movie you experienced this summer. Begin by writing a short summary of the story in case I'm unfamiliar with it, and then write the new ending. The written work should contain enough text to equal approximately 6-typed pages, double-spaced.
4. Write (**Type**) a play with characters and dialog from a familiar story or an original creative story that has at least five characters and a lesson or moral to be learned. Please include a short description, both of physical traits and "character" traits (bully, good guy, hero, victim, morals, attitude), and share the roles in the story (narrator, person who saves the day, etc.), of all characters and their relationships to one another. This assignment should equal approximately 6-typed pages, double-spaced.
5. If you have an exciting idea that I haven't thought of, please email me ASAP so that we can discuss that idea. I want to honor creativity and original thought as much as I can. Please don't delay, however. The idea is to write throughout the summer.

To instill the habit of writing and avoid a stressful end to summer, your writing assignment should be worked on consistently throughout the summer, **twenty to thirty minutes**, no more than **three to five times a week**. You may ask your parents to offer ideas, suggestions, and help with a small amount of editing, but it **MUST** be your writing. The writing assignment will be collected **in the First Week of school in September** and will be the first grade of the new school year.

You are welcome to email portions of your writing throughout the summer so I can offer suggestions and learn about you before the school year begins. However, please give me a few days to respond, as I will not check my email daily throughout the summer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at mbealefeld@cambridgeschool.org

Thank you, and God Bless,

Mr. Bealefeld