

Cambridge School, 2019 – 2020

Summer 2019 Reading & Writing Assignment
for Incoming 6th Graders

Summer Reading Requirement

- Incoming 6th Grade Students are asked to undertake this summer’s reading journey with *The Hobbit: There and Back Again* by J. R. R. Tolkien. The Hobbit is long, perhaps the longest book ever read by some of these young students, but not an unusual length for many private school students whose families embrace the ideals of Cambridge. If your student is challenged in some areas of reading comprehension or decoding, I recommend listening to an audio book while reading a hard copy of the book. Copies can be checked out from a public library or purchased as a download. Parents should feel free to share in the reading with your student, alternating paragraphs, pages or chapters. Share your thoughts and ideas frequently as you share the reading. **Students should come to their first day of 6th grade having completed both the summer reading requirement and the summer writing requirement.**

Summer Writing Requirement

Directions: Please choose from **ONE** of the three Hobbit assignments below (A, B, OR C). Assignments should be typed. Please check that you have answered all parts of the assignment you choose. This will be the first GRADED assignment of your 6th grade year!

A. Short Biographies

Write 3 brief **biographies** of characters from The Hobbit. A biography is a written story about someone’s life. Each of your biographies will only take up one written page. One of your biographies must be of Bilbo, but the other two can be ones you choose. This is the format to follow:

- Include a picture at the top of your character’s biography page. You may find a quality image on the Web, or, if you like to draw, make one yourself. (You may cut and paste an image on the top of your paper if that is easiest).
- List 4-5 “fun facts” about your character. For example, you could tell us about his or her:
 - Place of Residence
 - Age
 - Size/Height/Weight
 - Something he/she is well known for (such as a special power or personal trait)
 - Friends
 - Relatives

- Underneath the fun facts, give a description of the role of the character in the story in 6-7 (complete) sentences.

B. Write Your Own Ending

Rewrite the ending to one of the chapters you have read. Use your imagination to add to the story. What happens to Bilbo? What happens to some of the other characters? Should be at the minimal three pages (double spaced).

C. Creative Journal Entries

Pretend you are a fellow companion with Bilbo. Write 3 creative journal entries that describe what you experienced in 3 days of travel with him. Describe things like what you saw, smelled, ate, touched, felt, thought, or anything else that would help the reader understand your adventures. Describe what you did to help Bilbo. (Hint: You might want to pick a favorite event from a chapter to add your own description of it in your journal).

Additional Optional Summer Reading

After returning from our journey there and back again, hopefully some students will have an appetite to read a little more this summer! They should feel free to pick from any of the following suggestions, as all reading outside of The Hobbit is voluntary:

For students who would like to read more for their own enjoyment, I have included a list of additional books below you might find at your local library.

The following list of books is optional summer reading. These books have been selected because they reflect the literary ideals of the Cambridge Sixth Grade curriculum.

- *A Journey to the New World: The Diary of Remember Patience Whipple, Mayflower, 1620* by Kathryn Lasky.
- *The Sign of the Beaver*, by Elizabeth George Speare.
- *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, by Washington Irving.
- *Look to the Hills: The Diary of Lozette Moreau, a French Slave Girl, New York Colony 1763*, by Patricia C. McKissack.
- *A True Patriot: The Journal of William Thomas Emerson, a Revolutionary War Patriot*, by Barry Dannenberg.
- *The Seeds of America Trilogy*, by Laurie Halse Anderson.
 - Which includes: *Chains, Forge, and Ashes*.
- *Hope's Crossing*, by Joan Goodman.
- Any of *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis.
- Before 6th Grade, Cambridge students have read all of the *Narnia* books, except *The Silver Chair, The Horse and His Boy, and The Last Battle*. These remaining books will be read throughout middle school, with *The Silver Chair* read in 6th Grade.