

# ELA Summer Work



Dear Middle School Students,

Congratulations on your hard work and effort throughout the past school year! In just a few days you will begin summer vacation, a time to enjoy summer activities, a more relaxed schedule, and no uniforms!

Summer ELA Work is given to help you keep your reading and writing skills sharp and strong as you prepare for the new school year in the next grade. Athletes, musicians, and pro gamers take the time to practice the fundamentals of their sport, instrument, or video games on a regular basis. They practice to keep their skills fresh. During the upcoming summer months, you will compose six journal entries, which will be responses to one of the provided prompts and select a book from the provided list. After reading the book you will write a summary. By writing and reading throughout these vacation months, you will keep your ELA skills active and ready for the start classes in September.

Please carefully read through the directions and expectations for the ELA summer work. I encourage you to complete the work a little bit at a time over the course of the summer. Set a goal to have some work completed by the end of each summer month. Please bring your booklet with your written work back to school in September. It will count as a portion of your ELA grade for the first trimester.

Have a great summer filled with amazing adventures!

Miss Mary Stuart Murray,  
Middle School ELA Teacher  
Email: [mmurray@nschristian.org](mailto:mmurray@nschristian.org)



**Written Responses:** All written responses will be completed in the booklet provided or typed using the posted formatting guidelines at the end of this document. Please bring your written responses to school when you return in September. Your Summer Work will be a part of your homework grade for the first term. Write your Reading Response and six Quick Write responses in the booklet provided for you. If you prefer to type your written work follow the guidelines, print your work and bring it with you when school resumes.

### **Assignment #1 - Read Book and Write a Letter of Introduction**

**Directions:** Select one book from the list below. After reading the book, write Miss Sawyer a letter from the perspective of one of the characters. Describe a bit about your selected character, their character traits, and a problem that the character faces in the book. Also include details about the plot and the role your character plays in the book. Finally wrap up by sharing in the letter the climax and resolution to the problem that your character faces. This letter should be written in the first person as if you are the character.

#### **Book List (select one to read)**

- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- Book from the Anne of Green Gables Series by Lucy Maud Montgomery
- Book from the Horatio Hornblower Series by C.S. Forester
- Book from the Wingfeather Saga Series by Andrew Peterson
- Book from the Wings of Fire Series by Tui T. Sutherland
- Book from the City Spies Series by James Ponti
- *I am Regina* by Sally M. Keehn
- *Johnny Tremain* by Ester Forbes
- *Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood
- *Little Women* or *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott
- *M.C. Higgins the Great* by Virginia Hamilton
- *My Friend Flicka* by Mary O'Hara
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz
- *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- **Other books at or above your grade level may be read after receiving approval. Please email Miss Murray ([mmurray@nschristian.org](mailto:mmurray@nschristian.org)) and provide the title and author.**

## Assignment #2 - Quick Write Journal Responses

**Directions:** Select six prompts from the list below and compose a response by writing for 10 minutes for each prompt. After the 10 minutes have concluded go back and review/revise your work and check for the following:

- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Descriptive adjectives and adverbs
- Capitalization
- Strong verbs

### Writing Prompts (select 6 for a written response)

1. Create a fictional summer camp and describe all the unique activities and adventures campers would experience there.
2. Describe a person you visited this summer that you don't see on a regular basis.
3. Describe your favorite summer activity.
4. Do you have pets? Describe what you like about them. If you don't have a pet, imagine you do. It can be any animal, real or made up!
5. Do you like fireworks? Why or why not? Describe a time you watched fireworks this summer.
6. If you could have any summer job, what would it be and why?
7. Imagine yourself five years from now. What do you hope your life is like? What are some goals you hope to have made progress on?
8. Story Starter: What a wild and crazy day today was . . . .
9. Story starter: Learning to canoe was . . . .
10. Story starter: You won't believe what happened on our hike . . . .
11. We all miss things sometimes. Describe something or someone from school that you miss write now. Write about why you miss that thing/person.
12. What sights, sounds, and smells remind you of summertime?
13. What's your favorite thing to do on a nice day outside? When it's raining?
14. Would you rather ride a roller coaster or paddle a canoe? Explain.
15. Write about a trip that you took.
16. Write about something that made you smile this week.
17. Write a persuasive letter to your parents, trying to convince them to take a family road trip to a destination of your choice. Explain why it would be a memorable experience.
18. Write a poem that captures the essence of a summer thunderstorm. Describe the sights, sounds, and emotions it evokes.
19. Write instructions on how to do a summer activity that you enjoy.
20. Would you rather learn to water ski or to sail a boat? Describe why.

### Typing Formatting Guidelines:

- Entire document: double spaced, font size 14, portrait orientation
- Heading = Name, Grade in September, and Date - align right
- Body: align left, indent each paragraph