



6th Grade Core Summer Reading 2023-2024

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Middle School Core Program! Core is an interdisciplinary study, using primary and secondary historical sources, as well as fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama. The Core curriculum fosters skills that prepare students for a college prep upper school curriculum by encouraging students to think, question, learn, and make decisions based on Jewish and American values.

Core students participate in independent reading and writing and dynamic small group activities and projects that affirm and support the successes and challenges students face at the Saligman Middle School. Creative projects, cooperative learning and independence as a learner are encouraged. Emphasis is on the development and improvement of skills that include but are not limited to, research, study skills, independent reading, vocabulary, grammar, note-making and organization, writing and critical thinking.

Please find instructions below for Summer Reading. We hope you and your family have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing our middle schoolers after summer break!

Sincerely,

The Core Department

Summer Reading Instructions: *Turtle Boy* by M. Evan Wolkenstein

Welcome to sixth grade at Saligman Middle School of Barrack Hebrew Academy! This year our Core program will be about “Discovery”; the discovery of civilization and society through archaeology and exploration, and the discovery of self by close reading of literature that grapples with decisions we make. To prepare for this, please read *Turtle Boy* by M. Evan Wolkenstein. Please be sure to bring your book and chart to class on the first day of school.

As you read, please complete the following:

1. Create a google document with a chart that includes the traits of the main characters.
2. In the same chart, indicate passages (by page number and description) that show major problems and challenges faced by the main characters.
3. See an example of a [chart](#) here. Make a copy of this document and use it as your own.

When you complete the reading, please respond to the following questions:

1. Our Barrack middle school is guided by four Derech Eretz values- Chesed/Kindness, Kavod/Honor, Ometz Lev/Courage and Kehillah/Community. Choose one of our values and write about how it is demonstrated by one of the main characters. Be sure to include specific examples from the novel.
2. RJ writes a bucket list of adventures he wants to have, like owning a pet, going on a roller coaster, and swimming in the ocean. What would be on your list?
3. Is there a character in Turtle Boy you felt especially fond of or connected to? Why? What did they do or say that struck you?

Guidelines for Question Responses:

1. Responses must be typed and turned in as a hard copy on the first day of school.
2. Responses can be bullet points or complete sentences.
3. Be sure your responses are proofread and spell-checked.
4. Be sure your answers reflect your ideas and interpretation of the story.
5. Use size 12 font and double spaced.
6. Your paper must have a proper heading:

In the **upper left hand corner**

Your Name

Class(Core 6)

Date

Happy reading and enjoy your summer vacation!