



6th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 6th grade student is to read *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*, by Jean Lee Latham. Once you have completed the book, answer the following questions neatly on lined paper. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

Questions to answer:

1. Throughout the story the author applies expressions to people that normally would apply to ships. Explain how each of the expressions below applies to ships. Then explain how the author used them to apply to people.
“having an anchor to windward”
ships:
people:
“being becalmed”
ships:
people:
“sailing by ash breeze”
ships:
people:
2. The final paragraph in the novel sums up more than just Nat’s latest journey—it sums up Nat’s life. What was some of the “rough weather” that Nat had to endure? List at least five examples of difficulties that Nat endured.
Through his difficulties, how did Nat keep from being “becalmed”?
3. Would Nat’s life have been the same if he was not diligent to work and study on his own? How does Nat’s intelligence and desire to learn help him?

Other books we recommend:

- *The Jungle Book*, Rudyard Kipling
- *The Magician’s Nephew*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Horse and His Boy*, by C.S. Lewis
- *Prince Caspian*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- *The Silver Chair*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Last Battle*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
- *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls
- *Around the World in 80 Days*, Jules Verne
- *Shackleton’s Boat Journey*, Frank Arthur Worsley



7th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 7th grade student is to read *Black Ships Before Troy*, by Rosemary Sutcliff. This book should be brought to class on the first day of school. Once you have completed the required reading, answer the following questions neatly on lined paper or as a typed document. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

Questions to answer:

1. "Now, therefore, let us learn from the hawk, and since by strength we can do nothing more against Troy, let us turn to cunning." (p. 131) Write a paragraph describing the ways Odysseus uses brain over brawn to help turn the tide of the war.
2. Is the sacking of Troy a moment of glory in the text? Does it bring glory to the victors? If yes, how? If not, why not? (1 paragraph)
3. The term "fatal flaw" describes a singular shortcoming of an otherwise perfect hero, which often leads to the hero's death. The most common such flaw in Greek mythology is hubris, or excessive pride that tempts fate or arrogantly dismisses the gods. Describe a character from the story that possesses excessive pride which leads to their downfall. (1 paragraph)

Other books we recommend:

- *The Trojan War*, by Olivia Coolidge
- *The Young Carthaginian*, by G.A. Henty
- *The Cat of Bubastes*, by G.A. Henty
- *The Magician's Nephew*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Horse and His Boy*, by C.S. Lewis
- *Prince Caspian*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Silver Chair*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Last Battle*, by C.S. Lewis
- *The Bronze Bow*, by Elizabeth George Speare
- *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, by Jules Verne
- *Detectives in Togas*, by Henry Winterfeld



8th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 8th grade student is to read *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, by Howard Pyle. Once you have completed *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, answer the following questions neatly on lined paper or as a typed document. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

Questions to answer:

1. **Theme:** Discuss the loyalty among Robin Hood's band of Merry Men. How does their loyalty to each other contribute to their success? How do their friendships shape their actions and decisions throughout the story? (2 paragraphs)
2. **Scriptural analysis:** Do you think Robin Hood's actions are Biblically justified? Why or why not? (2 paragraphs)
3. **Analysis:** Is the ending to the book satisfying? If so, why? If not, what would you change and why? (1-2 paragraphs)

Other books we recommend:

- *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Arthur Conan Doyle
- *The Dragon and the Raven*, G.A. Henty
- *Winning His Spurs*, G.A. Henty
- *The Nine Tailors*, Dorothy Sayers
- *The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Two Towers*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Return of the King*, J.R.R. Tolkien
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare



9th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 9th grade student is to read *A Separate Peace*, by John Knowles. Once you have completed *A Separate Peace*, answer the following questions in a typed document. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

Questions to answer:

1. **Genre:** A bildungsroman is a coming-of-age story which deals with a protagonist's formative years and emotional/moral growth as he or she travels from youth to adulthood. In two paragraphs, explain how *A Separate Peace* is a bildungsroman using events and examples from the novel.
2. **Character development:** Gene and Finney are different in many ways (adherence to rules, spontaneity, ability in sports and academics, beliefs, backgrounds), and yet they are drawn together in a special bond of friendship. In two paragraphs, explain the dynamics of the boys' friendship and how those dynamics both draw them together and create distance between them. Use examples from the novel to support your assertions.
3. **Scriptural Analysis:** Find two scriptures addressing friendship and discuss in two paragraphs how Gene and Finney's friendship meets or fails to meet the standards set forth in these verses. Cite the Bible verses you use verbatim and use examples/events from the novel to support your assertions.
4. **Theme:** The theme of a novel is its underlying message, i.e., the critical belief (s) about life which the author tries to convey through his/her writing. The theme differs from the subject of a literary work in that it involves a statement or opinion about the subject. Since *A Separate Peace* deals with competitiveness and jealousy in friendship, what is John Knowles communicating about these two potential attributes of friendship? Use examples from the novel to support your assertions (2-3 paragraphs).

Other books we recommend:

- *My Antonia*, Willa Cather
- *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, Frederick Douglass
- *The Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison
- *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry
- *The Sun also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway
- *A Moveable Feast*, Ernest Hemingway
- *Hiroshima*, John Hersey
- *Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand
- *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller
- *Death of a Salesman*, Arthur Miller
- *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
- *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck
- *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker



10th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 10th grade student is to read *Death Comes As the End*, by Agathie Christie. Once you have completed *Death Comes As the End*, answer the following questions neatly on lined paper or as a typed document. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

Questions to answer:

1. **Context:** Evaluate the historical accuracy of *Death Comes at the End*. Research more about Ancient Egypt and write a comparison describing some areas that Christie was correct about the historical context and some where she was incorrect. Should be a 7-10 sentence long paragraph.
2. **Theme:** Select from one of the 3 themes (death, fear, or human nature) and write a 7-10 sentence long paragraph describing how the theme is present within the story.
3. **Scriptural analysis:** When Norfret enters the household, her presence affects other characters' behavior. How does their behavior reveal the sin or virtue in their hearts? Analyze at least three other characters in a 7 to 10 sentence paragraph.

Other books we recommend:

- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- *The Oresteia* - Aeschylus
- *Jason and the Golden Fleece* - Apollonius
- Plays by Aristophanes
- Plays by Euripides
- *Theogony* - Hesiod
- *Works and Days* - Hesiod
- Plays by Plautus
- Plays by Seneca
- *The Theban Plays* - Sophocles
- Plays by Terence



11th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 11th grade student is to read *The Fellowship of the Ring*, by JRR Tolkien. Once you have completed *The Fellowship of the Ring*, answer the following questions neatly on lined paper or as a typed document. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

Questions to answer:

1. **Theme:** Discuss the idea of companionship and friendship found throughout Fellowship. What different kinds of friendship exists between the members of the Fellowship, and why do the characters seem to think trust and friendship are more important to resist Sauron than strength of arms? What is the significance of the title of the book in the context of this question? (2-3 paragraphs)
2. **Analysis:** The One Ring is the physical embodiment of Sauron's power and evil in Middle Earth. Tolkien has essentially given the Ring three powers. What are these three powers, and why did Tolkien choose these as the powers to symbolize evil? (2-3 paragraphs)
3. **Character Analysis:** Compare and contrast Aragorn and Boromir. Both are men, both are noble warriors, and both are Gondorians, but one falls and the other does not. What character traits and flaws cause Boromir to succumb to the Ring but allows Aragorn to resist it?

Other books we recommend:

- *The Decameron*, Giovanni Boccaccio
- *The Saga of King Hrolf Kraki*, Jesse Byock
- *The Saga of the Volsungs*, Jesse Byock
- *The Name of the Rose*, Umberto Eco
- *The Praise of Folly*, Erasmus
- *The Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis
- *Here I Stand*, Martin Luther
- *Tartuffe*, Moliere
- *The Taming of the Shrew*, William Shakespeare
- *A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court*, Mark Twain



12th Grade Summer Reading 2024--2025

Each incoming 12th grade student is to read *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen. Once you have completed *Pride and Prejudice*, answer the following questions neatly on lined paper or as a typed document. The teacher will collect this assignment the first day of class.

1. **Character Development:** How are Elizabeth's wit and intelligence and independence first made clear in the novel? In what ways, during the course of the novel, is she the victim of her own intellect and independence? Are these features eventually responsible for her happy ending?¹
2. **Analysis:** For much of the novel, Austen seems to be offering a fairly pointed critique of marrying for social considerations. But it's also true that the happy marriages that bring the novel to a close are favorable by the terms of the society. In the end, both Elizabeth and Jane do marry "up." Does this undermine the critique the book offers? Is it meant to be read ironically? Do you think that Austen is critiquing Elizabeth and Jane?¹
3. **Theme:** The works of Jane Austen have been the inspiration of numerous contemporary books and films, both adaptations and new original works. What universal themes in the novel resonate today?

Other books we recommend:

- *The Stranger*, Albert Camus
- *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad
- *Four Quartets*, T.S. Eliot
- *The Poetry of Robert Frost*, Robert Frost
- *The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway
- *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley
- *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Washington Irving
- *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Baroness Orczy
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde