



6th Grade Core Summer Reading 2024-2025

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. Creativity, 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:

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 *No Vacancy* by Tziporah. Please be sure to bring your book and the chart described below 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 a column for the names of the main characters, a column for the traits of each of those characters, and a column for passage descriptions.

2. Identify passages that show major problems and challenges faced by each of the main characters. Write a description of each passage in the third column of the chart. Be sure to include the page number of the passage at the end of the description.

When you complete the reading, please respond to the following questions on the same document as your chart:

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. Is there a character in *No Vacancy* you felt especially fond of or connected to? Why? What did they do or say that struck you?
3. What were some of the challenges Miriam faced in this book?
4. Who and what helps Miriam address those challenges?
5. Miriam raises the question, “How does our faith make us different from or similar to one another? How would you answer Miriam’s question?”
6. What role does the motel play in the story?
7. What is the significance of the title *No Vacancy*?

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 space.
6. Your paper must have a proper heading:

In the **upper left hand corner**

Your Name

Class(Core 6)

Date

Happy reading! We are looking forward to discussing your thoughtful responses in September. Enjoy your summer vacation!