

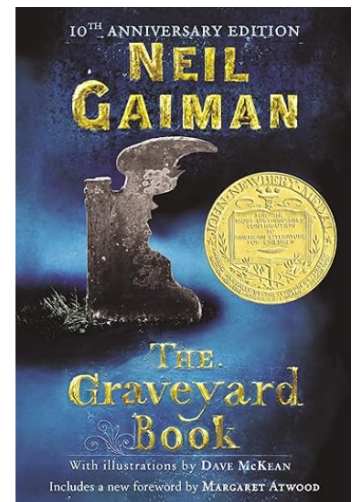
English 7 with Mrs. CdM

Summer Reading Assignment 2026

Welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts!

Over the summer, you will need to read and annotate one required book. **The Graveyard Book** is a fantasy novel about Nobody "Bod" Owens, a boy raised by ghosts and supernatural beings in a graveyard after his family is murdered. Protected by his guardian, Silas, Bod learns ghost-like abilities and faces dangers, eventually confronting the man who killed his family, Jack Frost, before leaving the graveyard to live among the living. If you need support purchasing this novel, or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at acastillodelmuro@theaskacademy.org.

1. **Read this required book:** [The Graveyard Book](#) by Neil Gaiman. **The Graveyard Book** is about 312 pages long and has a Lexile of 820L, accessible to all scholars.
2. **As you read, annotate the book to show your active reading.** Use and tape sticky notes into a notebook or use lined notes in a notebook (or if it is your own book, you can write directly in the book). Make annotations to reflect your thinking as you read (1 every couple of pages for a total of at least 100 or more----these will be checked.). Use the strategies below or on this link for ideas on how to annotate. **Rubrics are on the back/page 2.**
 - a. Make connections to your life, what you know, or other texts,
 - b. Ask questions like why and how to help you get to deeper meanings,
 - c. Summarize sections, chapters, or who, where, when, the conflict, etc.
 - d. Beside a written note, draw what you "see" if you are a doodler,
 - e. Make predictions of what you think will happen next,
 - f. Identify vocabulary that is new to you, and try to define the word using context clues.
3. **Write:** Your HANDWRITTEN response to **ONE** of the following prompts should be **multiple paragraphs long and include 3 pieces of evidence from the book**. Please **skip lines and be sure your written work is legible**. **See rubric**. If you have existing accommodations in reading or writing, please reach out to me to support you by noon on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.



*****Handwrite a response in 4+ paragraphs to ONE of the following questions:

- a. **The Role of Belonging:** Discuss the importance of belonging in The Graveyard Book. How does Nobody Owens navigate living between the world of the living and the world of the dead? Provide specific examples from the text to explain how his relationships with the ghosts and other characters shape his identity and decisions.
- b. **Courage in the Face of Fear:** Analyze how Bod demonstrates courage throughout the novel as he faces dangers both inside and outside the graveyard. What fears does he confront, and how do his actions reflect the theme of bravery? Use examples from the book to support your argument.
- c. **The Influence of Mentorship:** Explore how Silas and Miss Lupescu act as mentors to Bod. How do their different teaching styles prepare him for the challenges he faces? Discuss how their guidance impacts Bod's growth and independence using evidence from the text.
- d. **The Power of Identity and Growing Up:** Examine how Bod's identity develops over time in The Graveyard Book. How does his unusual upbringing influence the person he becomes? Discuss how key experiences contribute to his understanding of himself and the world.

- e. **Facing the Unknown:** Reflect on how Bod encounters and responds to the unknown throughout the story. What lessons does he learn about curiosity, risk and consequences? Discuss how these experiences shape his understanding of safety, independence, and maturity.
4. **FIRST DAY BACK:** We are using this book in the first weeks of school, so it is important that you have read the book. It is *required* that you bring the book to the first day of school with evidence of your active reading (your completed annotations). You will receive grades for your summer reading in the first week:
- Test: You will take a short test on [The Graveyard Book](#). If you read it, you will do well!
 - Annotations: To get a grade of proficient or higher, you need to annotate every other page or more using 3 or more different types of annotations that are listed above. (a total of at least 125).
 - Written Response. To receive a grade of proficient or higher, you need to write 4+ paragraphs with each containing 6+ sentences AND 3+ pieces of evidence from the book to fully support your answer to the ONE prompt you selected.

This must be done by the 1st day of school! If you do not read by the 1st day, then you will have to read it in class and have zeros for the annotations, essay, and the test until they are completed. The rubrics for all middle school ELA classes are very similar.

Rubric for Annotations:

Target Skill	4 Extending	3 Proficient	2 Nearing	1 Beginning	0 Incomplete
Number of Annotations	I show evidence of close reading by writing an annotation 1 time per page. (190-200)	I show evidence of close reading by writing annotations every other page. (approximate 95-100)	I show evidence of close reading by writing annotations every 3 pages. (approximate 60-70)	I show some evidence of close reading by writing annotations three to four per chapter. (approximately 36-50)	Little to no evidence of annotations. Annotations are less than three per chapter. (any number of annotations <= 35)
Variety of Annotations	I use 4+ different types of annotations throughout work.	I use 3 different types of annotations throughout work	I use 2 different types of annotations throughout work.	I use 1 type of annotation throughout work	I do not annotate or only use 1 type of annotation.
Completion of Reading	My annotations are on the whole 100% of the required text.	My annotations are on 80-90% of the required text.	My annotations are on 70%-80% of the required text.	My annotations are on 50%-70% of the required text.	My annotations are on less than 50% of the required text..

Rubric for Written Response:

Proficiency	4 Extending	3 Proficient	2 Nearing	1 Beginning	0 Incomplete
Prompt Response	Fully answers the prompt.		Does not fully answer the prompt.		Does NOT write about any prompt.
Textual Evidence	4 quotes that are incorporated into the writing and are explained	3 quotes that are incorporated into the writing and are explained	1-2 quotes and/or the quotes are not incorporated into the writing	No textual evidence or quotes, but does reference the text and what happens.	Does NOT write about the book.
Organization	5 paragraphs total, with an <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction with a hook , <input type="checkbox"/> 3 body paragraphs with transitions , <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion that explains why the ideas matter.	4 paragraphs total, with an <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, <input type="checkbox"/> 2 body paragraphs, <input type="checkbox"/> conclusion.	3 paragraphs total, with an: <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, <input type="checkbox"/> 1 body paragraph, <input type="checkbox"/> conclusion.	1-2 paragraphs total, with 1-2 missing elements: <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, <input type="checkbox"/> body paragraph, <input type="checkbox"/> conclusion.	Does NOT write a full paragraph.

