

Ray ELA Summer Work for _____ Due: 1st week of school

Pick at least 6 for grade 4, 8 for grade 5, and 10 for grade 6.

Submission Options: Use the included papers to record your responses or email completed work and reflections to raytina@cps-k12.org (include your name, grade level, and week number in the subject line).

#	Activity	Description	Template	Ohio Standards Covered	Date Completed
1	Library Adventure	Visit your local Cincinnati library. Choose 2-3 books. Write a 1-paragraph summary of <u>each</u> book. Include: title, author, main character, and what happens.	8	W.4.2, W.4.4, RL.4.10	
2	Nature Walk Observation	Take a 20-minute walk in a park near your home. Carefully observe 5 things you see (plants, animals, weather, colors). Write descriptive sentences about each using sensory words.	5	W.4.3, W.4.4, L.4.4	
3	Closed Caption TV Time	Watch a 30-minute show with closed captions ON. Write down 5 new words you see/hear. Look them up and write their definitions. Draw a picture of each word.	1	L.4.4, SL.4.2	
4	Creative Story Writing	Write an original short story (1 to 3 pages) about a character facing a challenge. Include: a clear beginning, middle, and end. Use descriptive words to bring your story to life!	3	W.4.3, W.4.4, L.4.3	
5	Get to Know YOU	Answer these questions in 3-5 sentences: What's your favorite hobby? Who is someone special to you? If you could go anywhere, where would it be?	7	W.4.3, L.4.1	

6	Art Museum Exploration	Visit the Cincinnati Art Museum or a local gallery. Choose one artwork that interests you. Write 2 paragraphs: What do you see? How does it make you feel?	8	W.5.2, RI.5.7, L.5.3	
7	Sign Language Lesson	Learn 10 sign language words (use YouTube or an app). Write the words down and explain when you might use each one. Practice teaching someone else!		L.5.1, CCRA.SL.6, L.5.4	
8	Montessori Exploration: Practical Life	Research Montessori education online or, if possible, visit a local Montessori school. Choose one "practical life" activity (cooking, gardening, organizing). Complete it mindfully and write about what you learned about yourself through this hands-on work.	6	W.5.2, W.5.3, L.5.1	

9	Mystery Email to Teacher	Write an email to me raytina@cps-k12.org - telling me 3 things about yourself I don't know yet. What makes YOU unique? What do you want to learn about this year?	7	W.5.6, CCRA.W.6, L.5.1	
10	Creative Story Writing	Write an original short story (2-3 pages) with a clear plot, interesting characters, and a meaningful ending. Include dialogue and TV descriptive details.	3	W.5.3, W.5.4, L.5.3	

11	Observatory or Science Visit	Visit a local observatory, science center, or planetarium. Write an informative essay (3-4 paragraphs) about what you learned. Include facts and your personal reaction.	8	RI.6.10, W.6.2, W.6.4	
12	Montessori Philosophy & Creative Writing	Research Montessori education and its focus on independence, curiosity, and self-directed learning. Write a 2-3 paragraph reflection: How do these values connect to YOU? How do you learn best?	6	W.6.2, W.6.3, L.6.1	
13	Multimedia Analysis	Watch a documentary or educational video (with captions). Identify 3 key facts. Write a summary explaining how the video's visuals helped you understand the topic.	8	RI.6.7, RST.6-8.9, RL.6.7	
14	Creative Story Writing	Write an original short story (3-4 pages) that explores a theme (friendship, courage, discovery, change). Include multiple characters, vivid descriptions, dialogue, and a compelling resolution.	3	W.6.3, W.6.4, L.6.3	
15	Personal Narrative Email	Email me (raytina@cps-k12.org (opens in new tab)) a 2-paragraph personal narrative about a memorable summer moment. Include dialogue and descriptive details.	7	W.6.3, W.6.6, CCRA.W.6	

16	Book Selection & Reading	Choose a book. Read for 30 minutes. Write 1 paragraph: What happened? Would you recommend it? Why or why not?	2	RL.4.10, RL.5.10, RL.6.10, W.4.1, W.5.1, W.6.1	
17	Neighborhood Walk & Writing	Walk around your neighborhood. Notice details: colors, sounds, people, buildings. Write a descriptive paragraph about the place.	5	W.4.3, W.5.3, W.6.3, L.4.3, L.5.3, L.6.3	
18	Vocabulary Hunt	From your reading or TV watching, find 10 new words. Create a mini-dictionary with definitions AND sentences showing how to use each word.	4	L.4.4, L.5.4, L.6.4, CCRA.L.6	

19	Montessori Sensorial Activity	Complete a hands-on sensorial activity (color sorting, texture exploration, sound matching, or nature collection). Observe carefully and write about what you noticed. How did using your senses help you learn?	6	W.4.3, W.5.3, W.6.3, L.4.1, L.5.1, L.6.1	
20	Creative Story Reflection	Write a creative story inspired by something you observed this summer (a person, place, animal, or moment). Then write a reflection: Where did your story idea come from? What did you learn about storytelling? See the template #3 for guidelines.	3	W.4.3, W.5.3, W.6.3, W.4.10, W.5.10, W.6.10	

MONTESSORI LEARNING ACTIVITIES EXPLAINED

What is Montessori Education?

Montessori is a teaching approach that emphasizes:

- Self-directed learning – Students choose activities they're interested in
- Hands-on exploration – Learning through doing, not just listening
- Independence – Building confidence and life skills
- Respect for the child – Meeting students where they are developmentally
- Connection to nature – Outdoor learning and environmental awareness

Practical Life Activities (Great for Summer!)

Students can practice these while completing the bingo activities:

- Cooking or baking – Following recipes, measuring, and sequencing steps
- Gardening – Planting seeds, watering, observing growth
- Organizing – Sorting items by color, size, or type
- Care of self – Practicing self-care routines mindfully
- Care of the environment – Cleaning, arranging, and maintaining spaces

Sensorial Activities (Great for Observation!)

- Color sorting – Organizing objects by color gradations
- Texture exploration – Feeling different materials (smooth, rough, bumpy)
- Sound matching – Listening to and identifying different sounds
- Nature collection – Gathering leaves, rocks, shells, and organizing them
- Taste/smell exploration – Safely exploring scents and flavors from nature

CINCINNATI RESOURCES

- **Cincinnati Public Library:** www.cincinnati-library.org (opens in new tab) (free library card, programs)
- **Cincinnati Art Museum:** Free admission
- **Parks:** Eden Park, Winton Woods, Parky's Farm (great for nature walks and Montessori-style observation)
- **Cincinnati Observatory:** Public viewing nights (seasonal)
- **YouTube Sign Language:** Search "ASL for kids" or "sign language basics."
- **YouTube Montessori Activities:** Search "Montessori activities for kids at home" for inspiration

GRADING RUBRIC 4-Point Scale (Per Activity)

Criteria	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Fair	1 - Needs Work
Content & Ideas	Ideas are clear, detailed, and thoughtful. Shows deep thinking and reflection. Stories have compelling plots and character development.	Ideas are clear and mostly complete. Some good details included. Stories have a basic plot and characters.	Ideas are present but lack detail or depth—some unclear parts. Stories are simple but present.	Ideas are vague, incomplete, or off-topic. Stories lack coherence.
Writing Quality	Writing is well-organized with varied sentences. Mostly correct grammar/spelling. Engaging and clear prose.	Writing is organized and easy to follow. Minor grammar/spelling errors. Generally clear.	Writing is somewhat organized. Several grammar/spelling errors. Somewhat unclear.	Writing is disorganized with many errors. Hard to understand.
Completion	All parts of the activity completed. Shows effort and engagement. For stories: includes all required elements.	Most parts completed. Generally shows effort. For stories: includes most required elements.	Some parts missing or incomplete. Minimal effort. For stories: missing some elements.	Activity incomplete or not attempted.
Vocabulary & Language	Uses descriptive, grade-appropriate language. Shows vocabulary growth. Strong use of sensory details in stories.	Uses clear language with some descriptive words. Adequate sensory details in stories.	Language is basic. Limited descriptive words. Few sensory details.	Language is unclear or inappropriate for the grade level.
Evidence of Learning & Reflection	Shows growth, reflection, and connection to standards. Deep understanding of Montessori or sensorial learning. Stories reveal understanding of character motivation.	Shows understanding of the activity and some reflection. Basic understanding of Montessori concepts. Stories show character understanding.	Shows basic understanding of activity. Limited reflection. Stories lack depth.	Does not show understanding of the activity. No reflection.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

✦ For Students:

- Complete one activity each week to stay on track
- Save your work in a folder (digital or paper)
- Email me progress updates or questions
- Be creative—there's no "perfect" answer!
- Use your observations and imagination
- **For creative stories:** Write what YOU care about. Your unique voice is what makes a story special!
- **For Montessori activities:** Work slowly and mindfully. Notice small details.

✦ For Families:

- Help students choose activities that fit your summer plans
- Encourage them to share what they've learned
- Cincinnati has amazing free/low-cost resources (parks, libraries, museums!)
- Celebrate their effort, not just perfection
- **Try Montessori activities together!** Cooking, gardening, or organizing can be fun family time.

FAQ'S

HOW YOU CAN HELP: ✓ Help your student choose activities that fit your summer plans ✓ Support them in visiting Cincinnati resources (library, parks, museums) ✓ Encourage them to share what they've learned ✓ Celebrate their effort!

CINCINNATI RESOURCES:

- Cincinnati Public Library: www.cincinnati-library.org (opens in new tab)
- Cincinnati Art Museum: Free admission
- Local Parks: Eden Park, Winton Woods, Parky's Farm, etc.
- Cincinnati Observatory: Public viewing nights (seasonal)

SUBMISSION OPTIONS:

1. Paper copies brought to school (first week)
2. Email to raytina@cps-k12.org with subject: [Name] - Grade [#] - Week [#]

Questions? Contact me at raytina@cps-k12.org, 513-543-3494

Template 1: 30 minutes TV

Watch a 30-minute show with closed captions ON.

Write down 5 new words you see/hear. Look them up and write their definitions. Draw a picture of the word.

#	Word	Definition	Picture
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Template 2: Summer Reading Log

RAY ELA SUMMER WORK - READING LOG (For Activity #16: Book Selection & Reading)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

BOOK #1 Title: _____

Author: _____ Genre: _____

Pages Read: _____ Date Completed: _____

Summary (What happened?):

Would you recommend this book? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Why or why not?

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

BOOK #2 Title: _____

Author: _____ Genre: _____

Pages Read: _____ Date Completed: _____

Summary (What happened?):

Would you recommend this book? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Why or why not?

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

BOOK #3 Title: _____

Author: _____ Genre: _____

Pages Read: _____ Date Completed: _____

Summary (What happened?):

Would you recommend this book? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe

Why or why not?

Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Template 3: Creative Story Writing Template

RAY ELA SUMMER WORK - CREATIVE STORY WRITING (For Activities #4, #10, #14, #20)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Activity #: _____ Date Completed: _____

Story Title: _____

Story Idea Source (where did this idea come from?):

STORY OUTLINE

Beginning: Where does your story start? Who is your main character?

Rising Action: What problem or challenge happens?

Climax: What is the most exciting or important moment?

Resolution: How does the story end? Is the problem solved?

STORY ELEMENTS CHECKLIST

Grade 4 Requirements: ☐ Clear beginning, middle, and end ☐ Main character with a problem ☐ Solution to the problem
☐ Descriptive words used ☐ Story is 1-2 pages

Grade 5 Requirements: ☐ Interesting characters (more than one) ☐ Dialogue (characters talking) ☐ Descriptive details and sensory words
☐ Clear plot with rising action ☐ Meaningful ending ☐ Story is 2-3 pages

Grade 6 Requirements: ☐ Multiple characters with depth/personality ☐ Clear theme (big idea) ☐ Vivid, descriptive language
☐ Realistic dialogue ☐ Compelling resolution ☐ Story is 3-4 pages

REFLECTION

What was the hardest part of writing this story?

What are you proud of in this story?

What did you learn about storytelling?

Template 4: Vocabulary Hunt Record

RAY ELA SUMMER WORK - VOCABULARY HUNT (For Activity #18)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date Completed: _____

Where I found my words: ☐ Reading ☐ TV/Videos ☐ Other: _____

#	Word	Definition	Sentence Using the Word
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Reflection:

Which word is your favorite? Why?

Did learning these new words help you understand what you were reading/watching better?

Template 5: Descriptive Writing - Nature Walk

RAY ELA SUMMER WORK - NATURE WALK OBSERVATIONS (For Activities #2, #17)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Walk: _____ Location: _____

Walk Details: Weather: _____ Time of Day: _____ Duration: _____

OBSERVATION #1

What I saw:

Sensory words (how it looked, sounded, felt, smelled):

Descriptive sentence(s):

OBSERVATION #2

What I saw:

Sensory words (how it looked, sounded, felt, smelled):

Descriptive sentence(s):

OBSERVATION #3

What I saw:

Sensory words (how it looked, sounded, felt, smelled):

Descriptive sentence(s):

OBSERVATION #4

What I saw:

Sensory words (how it looked, sounded, felt, smelled):

Descriptive sentence(s):

OBSERVATION #5

What I saw:

Sensory words (how it looked, sounded, felt, smelled):

Descriptive sentence(s):

Overall Reflection:

What was the most interesting thing you noticed?

How did paying close attention change what you noticed?

Template 6: Montessori Activity Reflection

RAY ELA SUMMER WORK - MONTESSORI ACTIVITY REFLECTION (For Activities #8, #19, #12)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Date Completed: _____

Activity Chosen: ☐ Cooking/Baking ☐ Gardening ☐ Organizing ☐ Sensorial ☐ Other: _____

Activity Name/Description:

What I Did (Step by Step):

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____

Step 4: _____

Step 5: _____

Observations (What did you notice?):

What I saw:

What I heard:

What I felt (textures, temperatures):

What I smelled:

What I Learned About Myself:

Working on this activity helped me understand that I...

Montessori Reflection:

How did slowing down and paying attention help you learn?

What was challenging about this activity?

Would you do this activity again? Why or why not?

Template 8: Summary & Reflection Template

RAY ELA SUMMER WORK - ACTIVITY SUMMARY & REFLECTION (For Activities #1, #6, #11, #13)

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Activity #: _____ Activity Title: _____

Date Completed: _____

SUMMARY

[Write a 1-2 paragraph summary of what you did and what you learned]

Key Details to Include:

- ☐ Title/Name of what I experienced
- ☐ Author/Creator (if applicable)
- ☐ Main ideas or highlights
- ☐ Important facts or observations

REFLECTION

Why did you choose this activity?

What surprised you?

How does this connect to what we learn in ELA class?

What would you tell a friend about this activity?

Rate your experience: ★★★★★ Loved it! ★★★★★ Really good ★★★★★ Good ★★★★★ Okay ★ Not for me
