7th Grade Summer Reading List

and Journal Requirements

2026-2027

Summer Reading Book and Required Assignments

All seventh grade students are required to read **Where the Red Fern Grows**, by Wilson Rawls.

Vocabulary List

Students should keep a list of any new vocabulary words they come across during their reading of the novel and the definition. Students should have this book and the vocabulary information on the second day of school. The book must be available for use during the first three weeks of school.

Author

Students should research the author, Wilson Rawls and gather at least 10 interesting facts about the author,using at least two credible sources of information (Wikipedia is not a credible source.). Please be sure to note the complete URL for the source of each fact.. Note that the URL should be specific to the information being used and not simply, https://kids.kiddle.co/, but more specifically https://kids.kiddle.co/Wilson_Rawls so that students will be able reference the resource quickly in class.Students should come to class prepared with the 10 facts (either written or typed) on the second day of school. **Facts should include biographical information such as date of birth and other life milestones, education, family, awards, favorite books, reason for writing etc.** These 10 Facts will be used in class and will be collected for a graded assignment so please be sure to write your facts in **complete sentences** and to **note your source for each fact**

Each fact is worth 10 points..

Writing Journal

In addition to the summer reading, all incoming 7th Grade Students are required to keep a writing journal with an entry once a week for 8 weeks. Each journal entry should be dated and should be at least one paragraph of 8-10 sentences in length.

The topic of each entry is up to the student. It may be about the student's

activities in a particular week or it may be about a particular incident that occurred. It may be their thoughts about something in the news or it may be their thoughts about the coming school year. It could be about things that they will miss about 6th grade or it could be about their pet. It can be about watching the paint dry. Topic is totally of the student's choice.

Subject matter is up to the student but the writing should reflect 7th grade appropriate subject matter and writing abilities.

Poor Example:

"Today was a good day. I had fun. We went to the beach. It was hot. We swam. We had ice cream. It was good. We went home."

- Although this is an 8 sentence entry, it is expected that incoming seventh grade students will provide more detailed information.
- 3 word sentences are not acceptable from 7th grade students.

Good Example:

"Today was a great day because my family and I went to the beach to escape the heat! Working together, we built a huge sand castle, surrounded by a deep moat! Then, we splashed in the waves, swam and used our skim boards to stay cool. While we were drying off, my brother and I looked for seashells on the beach. We found our first sand dollar ever! On the way home, we stopped for ice cream at a popular ice cream shop. The shop is known for its homemade ice cream and unusual flavors! I had bacon flavored ice cream! It was delicious and the perfect end to a great day!"

- Can you see the difference?
- Also, please note that every entry should have an interesting opening sentence and not simply repetitive " .Today I did this". or "This week I did this"

Handwritten or typed

Journals should be handwritten on lined paper. Some students prefer to type their journals and that is acceptable but not required. Each entry must be dated. Journals are due on the second day of school. They should be stapled together with an illustrated cover (hand drawn or clip art) and your name and grade. Hard-cover bound notebooks will not be accepted.

Journals will be graded as follows:

Each entry of 8-10 sentences, dated, illustrated colorful cover with	8 points/each

name, grade	10 points
assignment completed neatly and turned in on time, stapled as a booklet	10 points

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Connerty via email at mconnerty@stjosephschoolwakefield.org

Relax, Read, Write and Enjoy your summer!

Book, Author Facts, and Vocabulary list

Read	*Where the Red Fern Grows* Book is needed in school for at least two weeks	Due second day of school.
Gather 10 interesting facts about the author	Wilson Rawls ● Complete sentences ● Facts should be interesting ○ **birth, life milestones, education, family, awards, favorite books, reason for writing etc.** From two creditable sources ● Cite the sources! URL for each fact	Due: Second day of school
Vocabulary List --separated from journals	List of at least 10 new words and definitions	Due second day of school

Journals--Cover and Entries stapled like a book.

Journals	● 8 entries --**subject of your choice** ● Stapled neatly as a book	Due second day of school
Cover	● colorful, hand drawn or clip art ● name and grade	Due second day of school
Entries	● Entries are dated ● 8-10 well constructed sentences (vivid verbs, specific nouns) ● May be hand written on white lined paper **or** typed	Due second day of school