

Rising Sixth Grade Summer Work Humanities 2026

Summer Reading: *Bound* by Donna Jo Napoli

Welcome!

This summer, you'll be reading *Bound*—a powerful story about a girl named Xue Fang who lives in China almost 1,000 years ago. The novel is about family, tradition, and making brave choices, even when things are really hard.

What You'll Do:

- Read the novel *Bound* (at your own pace!)
- Answer discussion questions in a journal
- Write a short reflection about the book
- Choose one fun extension activity (optional, but encouraged!)

Due Date: First day of school

Reading Schedule

Read at a comfortable pace. You don't have to follow this exactly, but it helps to spread the reading across the summer.

Tip: Each week has about 30–40 pages. If that feels like too much or too little, adjust the schedule to fit you!

Discussion Questions

Write your answers in a journal (a notebook, Google Doc, or whatever works for you). Each answer should be 3–5 sentences. Pick **at least 6 questions** from below—you don't have to answer all of them.

Getting to Know Xing Xing

1. **What does Xing Xing's family want for her, and why?** What does this tell you about what parents in her time and place think is important?
2. **How does Xing Xing feel about what her family is planning?** Does she seem excited, nervous, unsure, or something else?
3. **What surprised you about life in 11th-century China so far?** What's different from today?

Facing Pain

4. **What does the foot-binding process sound and feel like, according to the book?** How do you think you would feel if this were happening to you?
5. **How does Xing Xing's mother treat her? How does her father treat her?** Are they the same or different?
6. **When Xing Xing's mother gets sick, what changes for the family?** How does this affect Xing Xing?

Fighting Back

7. **What does Xing Xing do to resist or fight against foot binding?** Why is she willing to take those risks?
8. **How does Xing Xing's sister help her?** What do you learn about their relationship?
9. **What's the hardest choice Xing Xing has to make?** What would you do in her situation?

The End

10. **How does Napoli end Xing Xing's story?** Does it feel like a happy ending, a sad ending, or something in between?
11. **What do you think Xing Xing has learned about herself by the end of the book?**

Reflection Prompt

After you finish the book, write a short reflection (about 1 page, or 3–5 paragraphs). Here are some things to think about:

- **What stuck with you?** Was there a scene or moment you can't stop thinking about?
- **How did reading this book change the way you think?** Did anything surprise you? Did your feelings about Xing Xing change?
- **What do you think about the choices Xing Xing made?** Do you agree with her decisions? Why or why not?
- **What would you tell a friend about this book?** Would you recommend it? Why?

Optional Extension Activities

If you want to dig deeper into the book, pick **ONE** of these activities:

Creative Ideas

- **Write a letter:** Imagine you're Xing Xing writing to a friend. Tell her about your experience and what you've learned.
- **Draw or paint:** Create an illustration of your favorite scene or a character you connected with.
- **Make a timeline:** Draw or create a visual timeline of the most important moments in Xing Xing's journey.

Rubric

Here's how your work will be graded:

Reading Journal (5 points per question answered)

- Did you answer at least 6 questions?
- Are your answers thoughtful? (Can you explain *why* you think something, not just *what* happened?)
- Did you write 3–5 sentences for each answer?

Reflection (10 points)

- Did you write about what stuck with you?
- Did you explain how the book changed your thinking?
- Is it clear and easy to read?

Total: 40 points (plus bonus)

How to Turn In Your Work

Due: First day of school

What to include:

- Your reading journal (answers to discussion questions)
- Your reflection (about 1 page)
- Your extension activity (if you did one)

How to turn it in:

- Google Doc emailed to latchison@communityday.org
- A mix of printed and digital (whatever works for you!)

Include a cover page with:

- The title: *Bound Summer Reading*
- Your name
- Ms. Atchison: 6th Grade Humanities
- The date

Tips for a Great Summer Read

- ✓ **Find a cozy reading spot.** A quiet place where you feel comfortable makes reading easier.
- ✓ **Read a little bit each day.** Thirty minutes a day is better than three hours all at once!
- ✓ **Keep your journal nearby.** Jot down ideas, questions, or favorite quotes as you read.
- ✓ **Ask questions!** If something doesn't make sense, write it down. We can talk about it on the first day.
- ✓ **It's okay if you struggle.** This is a challenging book, and that's okay. Push through the hard parts!
- ✓ **Enjoy it!** This is a powerful story about a brave girl. Let yourself get lost in it.