

The Shelter Island School
Summer Reading Assignment, grades 6-7

“We read to find ourselves, more fully and more strangely than otherwise we could hope to find. Reading well is one of the great pleasures that solitude can afford you.”
- Harold Bloom, How to Read and Why

Dear Students and Families,

At the Shelter Island School, two components of our mission statement assert that students should become "creative and analytical thinkers" and "knowledgeable and literate readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists." In order to achieve these goals, it is imperative that our students constantly read and write, both in and out of school. Consequently, we believe that reading during summer vacation is necessary for maintaining one's skills, so that when the students return in September, they will be mentally prepared for the rigor of their classwork and homework assignments.

All students entering grades 6 and 7 will be required to read at least **TWO** age-appropriate books over the summer. One book must be fiction and the other book must be non-fiction. Students may read any two books of their choosing, so long as they are appropriately challenging and, most of all, enjoyable!

On the back of this page, it includes the instructions that each student will follow to complete the writing assignment required to be done after reading both of the books. This assignment will be turned in on *Thursday, September 10th*. There will be additional copies of this letter and the assignment at the main office of the school. Thank you for supporting our summer reading program!

Sincerely,

Debra Sears
English Language Arts Teacher

Name: _____

Date: _____

Mrs. Sears

Shelter Island Summer Reading, grades 6-7

Summer Reading Project: Writing Assignment

Below are the tasks you will need to complete by September 10th to receive full credit for the Summer Reading project, which will count as a test grade for the first quarter of the 2026-2027 school year. Questions? Feel free to email me at: Debbie.Sears@shelterisland.k12.ny.us

1. Assignment for your chosen fiction book:

- o Please write a thorough and proper paragraph about the book's **theme**. As a reminder, the theme of a story is its underlying message or lesson (also known as the "central idea"). Use text evidence to support your claim.

2. Assignment for your chosen nonfiction book:

- o Please write a thorough and proper paragraph exploring the **author's purpose**. In other words, consider what the author is trying to accomplish in writing the book. Is the writer attempting to persuade the reader to do something or change his or her mind on a specific issue? Is he or she merely entertaining the reader? Is he or she informing the reader about a topic that he or she is unfamiliar with? Explain using details from the text.

Use this checklist to keep track of your work due on September 10th:

- ☐ Read 1 Fiction Novel
- ☐ Write a well-developed paragraph about the fiction novel's theme
- ☐ Read 1 Nonfiction Novel
- ☐ Write a well-developed paragraph for the author's purpose of your nonfiction novel

Some important considerations before you turn in your paragraphs on 9/10/2026

- o Do not use self-referential expressions like, "In my paragraph, I will write about..." or "Today I will be talking about..."
- o Be sure to capitalize the beginning of each sentence and all proper nouns.
- o Titles of books should be underlined.
- o Indent the first line of each paragraph.
- o Punctuate properly (to the best of your ability). Avoid run-on sentences and sentence fragments.