

**6th Grade Summer Reading Assignments
2025-2026 School Year**

Due Date: First day of school (August 13, 2025)

Books:

Required:

- *Tales of the Greek Heroes*, by Roger Lancelyn Green ISBN: 978-0141325286

Student Choice: At least ONE of the following:

- *A Wrinkle in Time*, Madelein L'Engle ISBN: 978-0312367541
- *The Swiss Family Robinson*, by Johann Wyss ISBN: 978-9916732427
- *Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson ISBN: 978-1101990322
- *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe ISBN: 978-0451530776
- *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, by Jules Verne ISBN: 978-0451531698
- *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, by Jules Verne ISBN: 978-0486440880

Assignments

Annotate Both Books:

- **Instructions:** Students are to read and annotate both books they read. The books and their annotations are to be submitted on the first day of school for a grade in literature.
- **Annotations:** Annotation is your opportunity to engage with the author and the story. In essence, it allows you to talk to the novel. Taking part in the conversation with the novel and its characters will help you to remember what you read and improve your understanding of the story. This is done by using a combination of notes and symbols in your book. Below are some key points to remember for annotating. I have also created an annotation guide that you can use for a quick reference.
 - Avoid the use of highlighters and markers as they often bleed through the pages.
 - Observe your text. Good reading isn't fast or perfect - it's slowing down to observe, to see, what is happening in the novel.
 - Trust what you notice! No one knows what is important the first time they read.
 - I'm not asking you to find specific things. Everyone is unique and what you notice, or think is important, might be different from your classmates.
 - "Connections" can be a lot of things. It is important to make connections between the novel and your existing knowledge or experiences. These can

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include events, thoughts, or characters in the novel, your own experiences, feelings, people you know, or other books you have read.

- Mark words or phrases. You do NOT need to mark whole sentences, just a word or phrase is enough.
- Use open spaces like the beginning/end of the novel or chapter.
 - Character lists – great for keeping track of who you meet in a chapter
 - Page numbers for important information
 - List themes, plot points, etc. with page numbers
 - Write a short (1 or 2 sentences) summary at the end of each chapter
- Think of a synonym. When you find a word you don't know, think about what the meaning might be, look up the definition, and write down a synonym that you'll remember.

Tales of the Greek Heroes, by Roger Lancelyn Green:

- **Instructions:** The essay is also due on the first day of school. It is a test grade for literature. We will use the essay in our first few lessons, so it is imperative that students read the books and complete the essay before school begins. Students are to complete the pre-writing exercise (below) and use it to write their essay response for the prompt below.

The essay should be an example of their best work. Please make sure that the essay meets the following requirements:

- Hand-written in the student's best cursive (all steps, from pre-writing to final draft)
- Skip lines to allow space for comments and editing
- Correct spelling, grammar and mechanics (punctuation, capitalization, etc.)

On the first day of school, students should submit:

- Pre-writing
- Rough draft with editing marks / changes
- Edited final draft

- **Prompt:** Choose one of the Greek heroes discussed in the novel. Analyze their character and how it impacts their destiny.
- **Pre-writing:**
 - Introduction:
 - Provide some basic information about the author and a short summary of the novel

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- Include the author's name and title of the novel
- Thesis Statement:
 - This is a one sentence answer to the essay prompt
 - Introduce the character you will analyze at this point
- Body Paragraph
 - Summary of their Characteristics:
 - What virtues of the church do they exhibit?
 - Do they have any faults or bad habits?
 - What is their best quality?
 - Evidence:
 - Be specific - what actions / comments / decisions from the novel prove your character summary
 - Explain how these actions / comments / decisions support your character summary
 - Use 2 or more examples
 - Include page numbers for each example
- Conclusion:
 - Summarize how these characteristics affected the character's fate?
 - Be specific and refer to the evidence you listed above to connect what happened to them to their characteristics.

One-Pager for Student Choice Book:

- **Instructions:** Students are to choose a book listed above and create a “one-pager” book report. They may create it completely from scratch or use a template. I have also included some examples of “one-pagers.”
- **Required Elements:**
 - Standard size (8 ½ x 11), unlined paper
 - Use color pens, markers, paint, etc., unless black and white is the best design choice
 - Writing must be in ink – no pencil
 - Everything must be drawn / written by the student’s hand – no printed materials allowed
 - Name & date on the back
 - Title and author of the book
 - One-paragraph (6+ sentences) summary of the plot
 - Name and description of the main characters

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- Description of the setting (time, place, social conditions, etc.), and whether these elements change throughout the novel
- Two vocabulary words with definitions; include the page number where the word is found
 - These should be words that were unfamiliar or new to you when you began reading the book
- Two quotes or passages that are important to the story
- What is the theme or message of the book?
- One personal response or connection to the book's theme, main idea, or message
- At least one drawing that relates to the book
 - Use drawings, symbols, colors, etc. that connect to the story, characters, themes, or your chosen quotes

5th Grade Summer Essay Rubric: Tales of the Greek Heroes

Category	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Needs Improvement (2)	Incomplete (1)	Points
Pre-writing & Planning	All pre-writing steps are complete and thoughtful. Thesis is clear.	Most pre-writing steps are complete. Thesis is included.	Some or no pre-writing. Thesis is missing or unclear.	Pre-writing is missing or mostly incomplete.	
Handwriting & Neatness	Writing is neat cursive and easy to read. Lines are skipped as asked.	Mostly neat cursive. Lines are skipped.	Messy, not in cursive, or lines not skipped.	Very messy, not in cursive, lines are not skipped	
Introduction	Includes author, title, short summary, and clear thesis.	Missing 1 of the required elements.	Missing 2 or more elements, or not clearly written.	Missing 3 or more required parts	
Body Paragraph	Clearly describes the hero's traits with strong details and 2+ examples.	Describes the hero's traits with 1–2 examples.	Limited or unclear traits; few or no examples.	Unclear writing or missing major components	
Evidence & Page Numbers	2+ specific examples from the book with page numbers and explanations.	At least 1 example with page number and some explanation.	Weak or no examples; missing page numbers.	No examples from the book are used.	
Conclusion	Clearly explains how the hero's traits led to their fate, using evidence again.	Explains the hero's fate, but not clearly connected to traits.	Unclear or does not connect to the rest of the essay	Missing or off-topic	
Spelling & Grammar	Few to no errors in spelling, punctuation, or capitalization.	Some errors, but do not affect understanding.	Many errors that distract from the writing.	Many errors that make the writing difficult to understand.	
Final Draft & Editing Marks	The final draft is clean. Rough draft shows clear editing. All parts submitted.	Final draft and rough draft are included. Some editing shown.	Final draft or rough draft is missing or poorly edited.	Final Draft and rough draft are missing; no signs of editing in rough draft	

Grading Scale

28–32 points = A
 24–27 points = B
 20–23 points = C

16–19 points = D
 Below 16 = F

Total Score: _____ / 32

5th Grade Summer Essay Rubric: Tales of the Greek Heroes

5th Grade Book Report Rubric: Student Choice "One-Pager"

Category	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Needs Improvement (2) or Incomplete (1)	Points
Format & Neatness	Correct paper size, name/date on back, neat, all hand-drawn/written, colorful and thoughtful design.	Mostly correct format, some neatness issues, minor missing elements.	Wrong size or messy, pencil used, printed items, or key elements missing.	
Title & Author	Title and author are clearly written and easy to find.	Title and author are included but not clearly presented.	Title and/or author is missing or hard to read.	
Summary	One paragraph with 6+ sentences clearly summarizing the plot.	Somewhat complete summary with 4–5 sentences.	Too short, unclear, or missing important plot details.	
Main Characters	Names and detailed descriptions of the main characters are included.	Names and brief descriptions are included.	Characters are not well described or missing.	
Setting Description	Clearly explains the setting and any changes that happen.	Explains the setting but lacks detail or doesn't mention changes.	Missing or very unclear setting description.	
Vocabulary Words	2 new/unfamiliar words, defined with page numbers.	1–2 words included but missing page numbers or definitions.	No vocabulary words or incomplete information.	
Quotes or Passages	2 quotes that are important to the story are included and clearly written.	1–2 quotes are included, but not well explained or hard to read.	Quotes are missing or unclear.	
Theme or Message	Theme/message is clearly identified and explained.	Theme/message is included but not clearly explained.	Theme/message is missing or vague.	
Personal Response	Clear personal connection or thoughtful response to the book.	A personal response is included but not well explained.	Response is vague or missing.	
Illustration & Design	Includes at least one creative drawing with symbols or images that relate to the story.	Includes a drawing but lacks creativity or connection to the story.	Drawing is missing or unrelated to the book.	

Grading Scale

36–40 points = A
 32–35 points = B
 28–31 points = C

24–27 points = D
 Below 24 = F

Total Score: _____ / 40

5th Grade Book Report Rubric: Student Choice “One-Pager”