

Incoming 6th Grade Summer ELA Assignment:

Welcome to Sixth Grade!

You will be required to read **two books** this summer. **All students must read *Ground Zero* by Alan Gratz.** When we return to school, we will be working with this novel in our ELA classes. **The second book is a book of your choice from the extensive list attached.**

Now, you have options when it comes to producing a task for each of your two books.

1. For *Ground Zero*, you have options. Choose any **one task** from the choice board provided, follow the directions, and bring it to school with you the first week of Sixth Grade this September. I tried to include ideas that would appeal to a wide variety of interests (writing, art, music, acting). Please make sure you read through and follow all directions for your choice with careful consideration.
2. For your personal choice book from the list, complete a book review. Attached to this packet is a book review sheet you can fill out—don't forget to rate your book. Be honest. :)
3. Remember—**Two books read. Two assignments. Only one review, and only one task.**

Book Assignments will be due on Thursday, September 3, 2026.

Please bring your copy of *Ground Zero* with you to school (with your name on/in it).

If you have any questions at all, please email: ddiorio@stjamesregional.com.

Pace yourself with this work, please do NOT leave it to the last minute. I know from personal experience this **never** goes well. Try to get one book done by July 4th and the other by the Assumption, August 15th. Bring your book to the pool or the beach or the mountains, wherever you are, and enjoy some quiet time lost in a great story,

Have a great summer! Stay safe, have fun, relax, and recharge! Can't wait to see you again in September! :) Continue to READ!

Happy summer!

Mrs. Dilorio

ddiorio@stjamesregional.com

From the Mixed-Up Files of Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg - Claudia Kincaid, a clever 12-year-old who runs away from home to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with her younger brother Jamie. While hiding in the museum, they discover a mysterious statue, a potentially lost work by Michelangelo, and become entangled in the secrets of the statue's former owner, Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. ©1967 Grade Level 3-8. 1968 Newbery Medal

Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World by Reshma Saujani The world's first coders were women. Pioneers such as Grace Hopper and Ada Lovelace helped shape the programming landscape as we know it today — and yet, according to recent research from Stack Overflow, only 7.7 percent of developers in the United States are women. ©2017 Grade Level 5-6

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. Grade Level 5–7. Coretta Scott King Award ©2016

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis - The story follows four Pevensie children who discover a magical wardrobe leading to Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter by the evil White Witch. They must help Aslan, a powerful lion, defeat the witch and restore peace to Narnia. ©1950 Grade Level 3-6

*** Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin** - Rose Howard, a fifth-grader with autism who is fiercely devoted to her dog, Rain. When Rain goes missing during a storm, Rose embarks on a journey to find her beloved companion, learning about the world, social situations, and the importance of following rules, even when they are difficult. ©2018 Grade Level 4-7. Schneider Family Book Award, Bank Street/Josette Frank Award, Judy Lopez Memorial Award

Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. ©2019 Grade Level 5-7 ALA Notable Children's Book, Texas Bluebonnet Award Winner

*** The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. 2016 Newbery Honor Book and 2016 Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 5–6

Who Was Anne Frank by Ann Abramson - explores the life of Anne Frank, from her childhood to the secret annex where she hid with her family, and delves into the legacy of her diary. ©2007 Grade Level 5-8.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio - 10-year-old August "Auggie" Pullman, a boy with significant facial differences, as he transitions from being homeschooled to attending mainstream school for the first time. Auggie navigates the challenges of navigating friendships, prejudice, and bullying while trying to be accepted by his classmates. ©2012 Grade Level 3-7. Maine Student Award, Mark Twain Award

A.K.A. Genius by Marilee Haynes - "When standardized test scores identify seventh-grader Gabe Carpenter as St. Jude's resident genius, he wonders what it means to have brains when he can't even manage to open his own locker." ©2013 Grade Level 5-7

Almost Home by Joan Bauer - Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. ©2012 Grade Level 5-8

Amina Voice by Hena Khan - Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? ©2017 Grade Level 6-8

The Earth Dragon Awakes by Laurence Yep - a historical fiction novel for young readers that tells the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake from the perspectives of two young friends, Chin and Henry. The book vividly portrays the destruction and chaos of the earthquake and subsequent fires, while also highlighting the resilience and courage of the people who survived. ©2008 Grade Level 4-7

***A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord** - When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001 by Lauren Tarshis - The story of Lucas, an 11-year-old boy who is caught in the midst of the September 11 attacks while on his way to visit his uncle, a firefighter in New York City. Lucas's journey to see his uncle to discuss football is interrupted by the tragic events of that day. ©2012 Grade Level 3-7

Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter by Beth Fantaskey It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the Tribune on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. ©2018 Grade Level 5-7, 2019 Newbery Medal

Restart by Gordon Korman - Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again. ©2017 Grade Level 7-9, South Carolina Book Award Nominee for Junior Book, Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee for Sundogs, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor - explores the struggles of African Americans in 1930s Mississippi through the perspective of nine-year-old Cassie Logan. ©1976 Grade Level 5-8. Coretta Scott King Award

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls - The story of Billy, a young boy in the Ozarks, who dreams of owning two redbone coonhounds. He works hard to save money and eventually buys Old Dan and Little Ann, with whom he experiences the joys of hunting and the profound bond of friendship, but also faces tragedy. ©1961 Grade Level 5-8. 1981 North Dakota Flicker Tale Children's Book Award, 1987 & 1988 Massachusetts Children's Book Award, 1989 Great Stone Face Award

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. ©2011 Grade Level 5-7. 2012 Newbery Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award, Coretta Scott King Award

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett - the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely orphan, who is sent to live with her uncle in a gloomy English manor after the deaths of her parents. ©1911 Grade Level 5-8

* **Soar by Joan Bauer** Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan. He really loves baseball and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach. ©2017 Grade Level 6-7 Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominee, Vermont Golden Dome Book Award Nominee, William Allen White Children's Book Award Nominee, and Bluestem Book Award Nominee

Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn - a ghost story about Molly and her brother Michael, who are wary of their new, troubled step sister Heather. Heather claims to be talking to the ghost of a child named Helen, who warns Molly and Michael of danger. ©1986 Grade Level 4-7. 1989 Young Reader's Choice Award

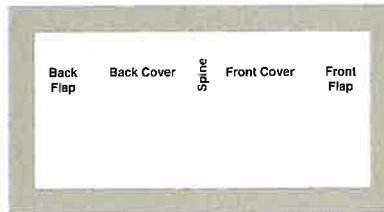
An * indicates a Mrs. Diiorio fav! Great read!

Summer Reading Choice Board

Interview a character from your book.



Design a Book Jacket



Scrapbooking Time



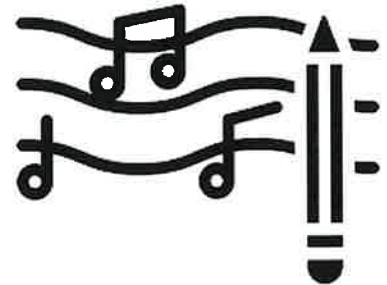
Create a diary kept by a main character in your story.



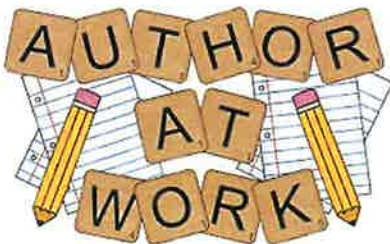
Cue the Dramatic Scene



I am music, and I write the songs!



Rewrite that ending!



Timeline



Going to the movies



Choice Board Choices Directions:

1. Interview a character from your book.

You might interview a character from your book.

- Write at least ten questions (probably more) that will give the character the opportunity to discuss his/her thoughts and feelings about his/her role in the story.
- There are many different ways you can choose to present your interview. You can present it in written format, record it on video, perform it live in the classroom (must be rehearsed beforehand) – or come up with another way.

2. Create a diary kept by a main character.

- Write a diary that one of the book's main characters might have written surrounding the book's events.
- It should be done from that person's point of view revealing all the major events in his/her life and his/her feelings about these events. Include their hopes, dreams, problems, concerns and frustrations. Remember that the character's thoughts and feelings are very important in a diary.
- The entries in your diary should stretch out over the entire period of time that the novel covers -- from the beginning of the novel to the end. You should have at least 5-6 well written, complete entries.
- Write dates for the entries, if possible.
- Create a cover for your diary.
- Organize the diary – make sure it is in proper order. On the first page, include an information sheet identifying the full name of the character, his/her age or birth date (if known), where he/she lives, and any other important information. Don't forget to include the title and author of the book here.

3. Rewrite that ending!

- Rewrite a new ending to the book you read.
- Be sure to write in the style of the author.
- **Don't explain how the ending should be changed. Write as if you were writing the story.**
- On a separate page, describe the original ending and the changes you made and then explain why you made these changes.

4. Create a Book Jacket

- Design an ORIGINAL book jacket for your book. You can include everything a regular book jacket has: the title on the spine and front, including the name of the author.
- Include artwork for the cover (front and or back), a section on the inside book jacket flap for a brief description of the book, and a section describing the author.
- Added touch, include reviews from students (or other family members) who have read that book (or make up your own)
- You can use hand drawn images, computer graphics, clip art, and try to have access to a color printer and a variety of colored paper.

5. Cue the Dramatic Scene

Like to be dramatic? Want to be an actor? Here's your chance. This especially works out well if you're reading the same book as one or more of the others in your class. You can work together and write a script and have several rehearsals before presenting it to the class. If you're alone but have a lot of confidence, you can also dress as one of the characters and act out a characterization/scene as a one-woman or one man show.

6. Timeline

- Come up with a list of the most important events in the plot from the beginning of the novel to the end.
- Create a timeline using a long ribbon of butcher paper, a poster board, or index cards attached in order on paper, ribbon, string, etc.(think of more).
- For each event on your timeline, write a brief description of what happens
- Add pictures, clip art, word art and symbols to make your timeline more lively and colorful.
- All writing should be typed and then glued or taped neatly onto the butcher paper, poster board or whatever you've chosen to use.

7. Scrapbook

A scrapbook is an album of important objects that tells about or relates an event. You can put together a scrapbook for one of the main characters in your novel.

- The scrapbook should reflect major character and plot events that occur to that character in the novel.
- You can include photographs, letters, postcards, telegrams, a family tree, newspaper article clippings, memorable items, or anything else you can think of that you might find in a scrapbook.
- If you include objects or photographs, be sure to **write captions** below describing what they are or what's going on and their significance to the character.
- Create a nice cover for your scrapbook. The first page inside should have the full name of the character, title of the book you read, and the author's name. You could also include some pertinent information about the character, such as his/her birth date, age, or where he/she lives.

8. I write the songs!

Convert the events of the story into a ballad or a song.

- Write the lyrics and adapt the words to a well-known melody (like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"). Retell the story through your lyrics.
- Make sure you state what melody you used when writing your lyrics.
- You should have at least 20 lines to your song. (Record it if you want).

9. Going to the movies!

Your book has been bought by a Hollywood movie studio. Create a movie poster to advertise it.

- Give your movie a title! Re-invent a title for the book that would be a great movie title.
- Who directed the movie? {Author}
- Use your poster board to draw a picture that summarizes the story. Pictures must be hand drawn. (No internet pictures or cut-outs) Make it look like a movie poster you would see at the movie theater. **Be creative and don't forget to color it.**
- Add a cast of characters (starring: Taylor Swift as the main character, 'Roz', Tom Cruise as the gosling, 'Brightbill', etc.) You don't need to have someone for every character, but you should have about three.
- Add the movie trailer (the written summary). The summary should be between 5-8 sentences, and not give the ending away. For example, "In a time of darkness, one person is destined to save the world..." (All writing should be typed and then glued or taped neatly onto the poster board).
- Create a tagline slogan for your movie. Movie taglines should be fun. They should be simple. Movie taglines are designed to get audiences to want to see your movie. For example, *Shrek's* tagline is: "The greatest fairy tale never told." *The Lion King* was: "The greatest adventure of all is finding our place in the Circle of Life."
 - All work is to be **your** original work—it may not be pulled from AI, or posters already generated and available online for this book/movie.

Book Review

Name of Reviewer: _____

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Fiction: realistic fiction, mystery, science fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, scary.

Non-fiction: informational, (about a specific topic), biography, autobiography.

Poetry, drama (a play).

A brief summary (no spoilers)! This novel is set The main character(s) ... This book is about....

Recommendation:s: Who do you think would like this book and why? Would you NOT recommend this book and why?

Bulldog Stars: How many Jimmy the Bulldog stars do you give this book?

