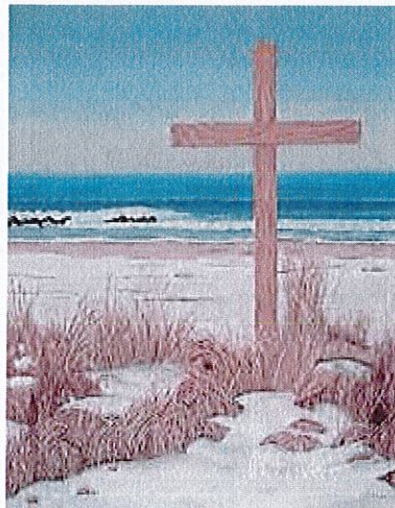




HOLY CROSS ACADEMY
RUMSON, NJ

Incoming 8th Grade

Holy Cross Academy 2025 Summer Assignments



Dear Students:

Get ready to shine brighter than the sun! As we end another terrific school year and look forward to the sunny days of summer, our learning journey continues with the attached summer reading and math packets. Our summer assignments aren't just tasks; they are your passport to a summer filled with growth and enrichment. So, let's dive in together, embrace the warmth of learning, and make this summer one to remember! Please complete and bring the assignments with you on the first day of school in September.

Enjoy the many blessings of summer!

**Grade 8 Summer Assignment Incoming for Integrated Language Arts 2025-2026***Holy Cross Middle School Integrated Language Arts*

Dear Incoming 8th Graders and Parents:

Hello! While your child is beginning what is sure to be a wonderful summer vacation, we also want to make sure that our students are able to maintain all of the reading and thinking skills that they have strengthened during this school year. When it comes to English Language Arts class, we think the best way to maintain these gains is through consistent, engaged reading. I also know that you want to help prepare your child for a successful start to the next academic year.

Since reading is the foundation of all learning, we feel that it is essential for students to spend some time reading this summer. Therefore, to do our best to maintain your child's reading stamina, reading comprehension skills and writing agility, we hope you will join us in encouraging your child to complete the following summer packet.

Your incoming eighth grader(s) will need to read– one required reading book as well as at least one other book from the attached list. There are direction sheets attached to this letter that will detail the summer assignment for the required novel and their choice novel. Additionally, 8th graders will have to complete a small grammar packet to work on those skills. All assignments are due the first full Friday of school.

As always, even though you are only required to read 2 novels, I strongly encourage the students to read additional books throughout the summer.

Happy reading and enjoy your well deserved summer break!

ILA Summer Assignment Checklist

- ☐ Required Text Assignment Directions
- ☐ Choice Text Directions
- ☐ Grammar Worksheet

Grade 8

Name: _____



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Summer Reading Texts

Required Text: [The Hobbit by J.J. Tolkien](#) (Amazon link)

Required Text Assignment Directions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Your required text for this incoming 8th Grade summer is to read *The Hobbit* by J.J. Tolkien. Your assignment is as follows: Look for the following themes as you read *The Hobbit*. In the space below add text evidence (quotes from the book) that show these themes. Provide at least 3 quotes from at least 3 different chapters in the book for each theme. *We will be discussing them in class this fall:*

1. How does Bilbo change over the course of this adventure?

--

2. Bilbo's hobbit-hole is only one of many important refuges. What does home mean to Bilbo and how does it affect his perspective while on his adventure?

--

3. In what ways is the dwarves' quest for treasure also a quest for home?

--

4. Which key episodes in the novel give us insight into Bilbo's particular definition of right and wrong?

--

B. Find three examples of literary devices (personification, alliteration, simile, metaphor, allusion, etc.)

Literary Device 1 + Definition:
Text Evidence with page number:
Explanation Sentence:

Grade 8

Name: _____



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Literary Device 2 + Definition:

Text Evidence with page number:

Explanation Sentence:

Literary Device 3 + Definition:

Text Evidence with page number:

Explanation Sentence:

Literary Device 4 + Definition:

Text Evidence with page number:

Explanation Sentence:



Choice Text Assignment Directions

Choice Texts: Please pick 1 novel from 1 of the following genres and complete the attached assignment

Fiction

- The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
- Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
- Divergent by Veronica Roth
- Any Rick Riordan book
- Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie -Jordan Sonnenblick
- Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky
- Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories by R.J. Palacio
- The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
- Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Historical Fiction

- Kira-Kira - Cynthia Kadohata
- The Book Thief - Markus Zusak
- Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes
- When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Sports Fiction

- Baseball in April by Gary Soto
- Ghost (Track series) by Jason Reynolds
- Hoops - Walter Dean Myers

Religious Texts

- Heavenly Hosts: Eucharistic Miracles for Kids (Catholic Stories for Kids) by Kathryn Griffin Swegart
- Tales of Wonder V. 1: 8 Essential Fairy Tales & Discussion Questions



On a typed Google Doc, please complete the following assignment: For your choice text, you are to find and define 25 vocabulary words, and create sentences using their definitions. Please follow the format below for how to format your definitions and sentences. Print and bring to class along with all other items in this packet. You should proofread your sentences for grammar, spelling, and clarity, as well as to make sure you are using the correct meaning of the words.

Choice Book:

Word	Part of Speech & Definition	Use in a sentence.
1. Adamant (p. 5)	Adj.- refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind.	He was adamant that he did not cheat on his spelling test.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		



Grammar packet:

Use the following link to access the 8 comma rules YouTube video. The video is about 18 minutes long. Fill in the handout as you watch the video. [LINK](#) Pause as often as you find necessary.

Comma Rule One: _____

- What is an oxford comma? Yes, you need one, by the way!

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- We drank water soda and coffee at dinner with our friends.
- He went swimming rode a bike and played tennis at the sports camp.
- The man was handsome tall and strong.

Comma Rule Two: _____

- What does FANBOYS stand for?

F A N B O Y

- When you are connecting two independent clauses, the comma comes _____ the conjunction.

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- Jack had an argument with Daniel and he got fired from his job.
- I'm good at writing short stories yet I prefer reading novels.
- It was raining so I took an umbrella.

Rule Three: _____

- An independent clause is a/an _____ thought, while a dependent clause is a/an _____ thought.

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- Because he is only fifteen he can't drive a car.
- If you keep procrastinating you'll never finish your work on time.
- When I grow up I want to be a doctor.

Rule Four: _____

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- Dr. Jones my family doctor only works on Tuesdays at her clinic.
- Fresh food items especially fruits and vegetables are good to eat on a daily basis.

Rule Five: _____

- Commas always go _____ you close the quotation marks.
 - "Where are you?" he asked. OR "Where are you?," he asked. (Circle the one that is correct?)
- Why? _____

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- "If you don't go to sleep now" she whispered "you'll be very tired tomorrow."
- "Finish the report by tomorrow morning" the manager ordered.

**Rule Six:** _____

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- Unfortunately I didn't finish my work on time.
- Yes I am able to come to the meeting tomorrow.
- Oh I'm not sure I can make it on Tuesday.

Rule Seven: _____

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- I think he lives in Lisbon Portugal.
- The business conference will take place in Nashville Tennessee.

Rule Eight: _____

Complete the practice sentences from the video:

- Tomorrow will be March 12 2020.
- The annual awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday December 7 2021.

Editing Practice: Use the rules above to add commas where they belong. After each sentence, it lets you know how many commas are needed in the sentence. Write the "rule" on the line. Place the comma(s) and highlight them in the appropriate place(s) for each sentence. The number after the sentence tells you how many commas you need to insert. Write a word or two on the line to name the rule that tells you why the sentence needs a comma (see 8 rules above). The first one has been done for you.

1. Alyse, Nicole, and Jessica counted the papers for the librarian. (2) list of 3
2. On November 9 1994 I was born in Portland Oregon. (3) _____
and _____
3. Mr. Kelly an eighth grade science teacher coaches volleyball. (2) _____
4. We will write poems in language arts and then we can read them. (1) _____
5. Yes I plan on attending. (1) _____
6. Matthew said "This is very intimidating." (1) _____
7. Mom can I please stay to join the study group? (1) _____
8. During the summer I will be reviewing comma usage. (1) _____

Homophones

Use the correct there, their, or they're to properly complete each sentence.

1. Please return the books to _____ proper owners.
2. Will you walk _____ with me after school?
3. If she agrees with the board, _____ going to pass the proposal.
4. _____ have been many acts of vandalism lately.
5. Where did _____ dog go when it ran away?
6. Tonight, _____ going shopping for new furniture.



Use the correct form of each homophone to properly complete each sentence. You are expected to know how to properly use all the homophones on this page before you start 8th grade. Study!

1. No one believed that the dog could clap _____ paws together. (its / it's)
2. _____ clearly going to rain today. (its/ it's)
3. I haven't decided _____ I should put my bag. (where/ wear/ were)
4. We _____ going to go shopping, but my mom said no. (where/ wear/ were)
5. If you don't do _____ ELA summer packet, _____ going to get in trouble. (your/ you're)
6. No one is _____ to talk _____ during the test. (allowed/ aloud)
7. In some classes, I get _____ as the teacher writes on the _____. (board/bored)
8. We will _____ study before that test. (defiantly/ definitely)
9. What _____ did you get in the school play? (roll/ role)
10. I need a fresh _____ of paper to about world _____. (peace/ piece)
11. First, I'm going to clean my room, and _____ I'll play outside. (than/ then)
12. My older brother is smarter _____ he looks. (than/ then)

Identify poetic devices in the following poem.

"Where the Sidewalk Ends" by Shel Silverstein

There is a place where the sidewalk ends
 And before the street begins,
 And there the grass grows soft and white,
 And there the sun burns crimson bright,
 And there the moon-bird rests from his flight
 To cool in the peppermint wind.
 Let us leave this place where the smoke blows black
 And the dark street winds and bends.
 Past the pits where the asphalt flowers grow
 We shall walk with a walk that is measured and slow,
 And watch where the chalk-white arrows go
 To the place where the sidewalk ends.
 Yes we'll walk with a walk that is measured and slow,
 And we'll go where the chalk-white arrows go,
 For the children, they mark, and the children, they know
 The place where the sidewalk ends.

1. How many stanzas are in the poem? _____
2. How many lines are in the poem? _____
3. Underline two (2) examples of alliteration.
4. Highlight two (2) examples of imagery.
5. Label the rhyme scheme. (Type ABCD at end of lines to show which lines rhyme)
6. Identify one example of personification and circle it