

Summer Work - Incoming 6th Graders

This is the summer assignment for the incoming 6th graders. The students need to complete the writing prompts, choose and memorize one of the poems along with a written response for the poem, read two of the novels, and complete math challenge questions & lessons reviews in preparation for the diagnostic assessment that takes place during the first week of school.

Writing

Directions: Please get a **new** spiral notebook (you will be using this notebook during the year) and answer at least **two** from **each** of the following writing styles: Expository, Descriptive, Narrative.

Please Note: If you have answered any of these prompts for a previous summer writing assignment, please choose different prompts.

Expository

1. Explain how disappointments can sometimes have a positive outcome.
2. Each child has a unique place in their family. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of the position you hold in your family (youngest child, an only child, middle child etc.).
3. A home in your neighborhood has burned. The family lost everything in the fire, but everyone came out safely. Inform your reader how you plan to help the family recover from the loss.
4. Think of and explain something that you know how to do well and then explain how to do it as if you were teaching someone who didn't know.
5. Explain why it is important to help people who are less fortunate than us and explain how you can get your friends involved.
6. Think about a time when you couldn't stop laughing and explain what happened.

Descriptive

1. Describe the most interesting person you have ever met.
2. You have to describe the Fourth of July to an alien. How would you tell them what it is?
3. What is your favorite meal and why? Describe it in detail, including what it looks, smells, and tastes like.
4. Walk us through a typical day at the fair. What might you see, hear, smell, and do?
5. Describe a thunderstorm to someone who has never experienced one. Give details about what you see, hear, and smell. Be sure to describe how you feel during the storm.
6. Write a descriptive story using these 3 things: a whole pizza, a bucket of slugs, a fishing pole, three dollars, an old copy of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and a pack of wolves.

Narrative

1. Have you ever been so proud of yourself for learning something new? Write a story about a time this happened.
2. Imagine that you spent the entire day with your favorite relative (grandmother, grandfather, cousin, aunt, uncle, etc). Tell us about your day.

3. Imagine that you were invisible for a day. Write about your experience.
4. Imagine you went to the zoo and could take home any animal for the day. Tell a story about your time together.
5. What would happen if you lived during a time when there was no electricity? Write a story about your day.
6. Write a story about the strangest thing that has ever happened to you. Why was it so unusual?

Poetry

Directions:

- 1) Choose and memorize one of the following poems. You will be asked to recite this poem from memory at the beginning of school.
- 2) Write a one-paragraph reader's response about the poem you chose, in your composition notebook (the same notebook you used for your writing).

DAISIES by Frank Dempster Shaerman

At evening, when I go to bed,
I see the stars shine overhead;
They are the little daisies white
That dot the meadows of the night.
And often, while I'm dreaming so,
Across the sky the moon will go;
It is a lady, sweet and fair,
Who comes to gather daisies there.
For when at morning I arise
There's not a star left in the skies;
She's picked them all, and dropped them down
Into the meadows of the town.

A MIDSUMMER DAY by Dora Goodale

What is so sweet as a midsummer day,
When no sound greets the ear save a bird's
Happy lay,
Or the rustling of leaves as the wind passes thro';
When the earth is so green, and the sky is so blue!
When the swallows in ecstasy dart thro' the air,
When the breeze is so pure, and the flowers are so Fair,
When the grain is so folden, the farmer so gay, O what can compare with a midsummer day!

When April Comes by Virna Sheard

When April comes with softly shining eyes,
And daffodils bound in her wind-blown hair,
Oh, she will coax all clouds from out the skies,

And every day will bring some sweet surprise, --
The swallows will come swinging through the air
When April comes!

When April comes with tender smile and tear,
Dear dandelions will gild the common ways,
And at the break of morning we will hear
The piping of the robins crystal clear --
While bobolinks will whistle through the days,
When April comes!

When April comes, the world so wise and old,
Will half forget that it is worn and grey;
Winter will seem but as a tale long told --
Its bitter winds with all its frost and cold
Will be the by-gone things of yesterday,
When April comes!

Summer Reading

Directions: Choose **2** of the following books to read over the summer. You will be taking AR tests on these at the beginning of the year.

- *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
- *My side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George
- *Star girl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt
- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

Math

[Complete 6th-Grade Math Minutes: 2-50](#) (even only). You can print them out or write the problems on loose leaf papers, then show all your work to earn the summer credits. Answer keys are available at the end of the packet. You are welcome to do more than 25 Math Minutes.