

Summer Work - Incoming 8th Graders

This is the summer assignment for the incoming 8th 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 items: 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).

SUMMER SUN by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven without repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.

RAIN IN SUMMER by Henry W. Longfellow

How beautiful is the rain!
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane,
How beautiful is the rain!

How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs!
How it gushes and struggles out
From the throat of the overflowing spout!

Across the window pane
It pours and pours;
And swift and wide,
With a muddy tide,
Like a river down the gutter roars
The rain, the welcome rain!

In the country, on every side,
Where far and wide,
Like a leopard's tawny and spotted hide,
Stretches the plain,
To the dry grass and the drier grain
How welcome is the rain!

TO A BUTTERFLY by William Wordsworth

I've watched you now a full half hour
Self-poised upon that yellow flower;
And, little Butterfly! Indeed
I know not if you sleep or feed.
How motionless!--not frozen seas
More motionless!--and then
What joy awaits you, when the breeze
Hath found you out among the trees,
And calls you forth again!

This plot of orchard-ground is ours;
My trees they are, my Sister's flowers:
Here rest your wings when they are weary,
Here lodge as in a sanctuary!
Come often to us, fear no wrong;

Sit near us on the bough!
We'll talk of sunshine and of song,
And summer days, when we were young;
Sweet childish days, that were as long
As twenty days are now.

Reading

Directions: Choose two of the following books to read over the summer. You will take A.R. tests for these at the beginning of the year.

1. *Chains*, Laurie Halse Anderson
2. *Sophia's War*, Avi
3. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
4. *The Time Machine* by HG Wells
5. *Brady*, Jean Fritz
6. *Gold Rush Girl* by Avi

Math

[Complete 8th-Grade Math Minutes: 2-50](#) (even Math Minutes 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.