



400 N. Duke Street
Durham, NC 27701

Dear incoming 6th grader,

Congratulations on winning the lottery and welcome to Durham School of the Arts! We are very excited that you will join our unique ranks next year, and we are anxiously anticipating your arrival. As Language Arts teachers, we hope this upcoming school year will help you grow in your passion for learning and develop stronger reading and writing skills. For this reason, we have developed a summer assignment to prepare you for the level of English Language Arts work that you will experience during your years at DSA. This assignment will also serve as a diagnostic tool to help us gauge your strengths in Language Arts. Please read and complete the following assignment to the best of your ability. This will be collected on the **first day of school**. Students may be required to present their summer assignment to their classmates and teacher. Be prepared to give a 2-3 minute presentation in case you are asked to share. Please put forth your best effort on all components of this assignment. It will be your first test/project grade as a 6th grader in the DSA family.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lockamy, Knights
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& Mandie Robertson, Dragons
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PART ONE – Literary Analysis:

1. Choose a novel from the list provided- please choose a novel that is within your current reading level. You might want to ask your current LA teacher to help you choose wisely. Also you can use your Lexile score from your Reading EOG to help choose the appropriate book for your reading level.
2. Fill in **each** section on the attached graphic organizer as you read the book. Include as many details as possible. (**at least 3 relevant sentences per box**)
3. Have fun! Enjoy the book as you read and complete the organizer. A suggestion would be to develop a timeline for the summer to help you keep up with your work and still enjoy the break. Remember the sooner you do it, the sooner it will be done! We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

PART TWO – Artistic Interpretation:

1. After reading your novel, for Part One create a project that accurately depicts the story and/or theme of your novel.
 - Use ideas from the novel to make a set of **completely colored** drawings (comic strip) to retell the story. Put the events in order. Each box must have dialogue. There is a **minimum of 9 boxes**. You are encouraged to do as many cartoon boxes as necessary to tell the story completely.
 - Draw or paint a scene from your book. The painting should be on at least a 17 x 11 inch piece of paper or canvas (no notebook or 8 x 11 inch typing paper). You must include a **five** sentence summary of who, what, when, where, and what is happening in the scene.
 - Create a newspaper about the people, places, and events from your book. Don't forget to add a headline and include **two** creative articles that cover the major points from the novel. The newspaper should be easily identified as such. Use a real newspaper as your guide.

How much should you include in your project?

Well, you have included enough when you have covered the essentials of the novel (who, what, when, where, why, and how). Remember, this is your first test/project grade as a 6th grader. **Put forth your best effort.**

Summer Assignment Reading Options:

Please choose one book...

- **Al Capone Does My Shirts** – Gennifer Cholodenko
Reading Level: 4.7
Details: A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister
- **The Silent Boy** – Lois Lowry
Reading Level: 5.1
Details: Katy, whose father is a doctor, takes an interest in Jacob, a boy from a neighboring farm, who can't speak, who sings quietly to himself, but who seems able to communicate with animals. Jacob occasionally comes to the Thatcher home to be in the barn with the animals.
- **Surviving the Applewhites** – Stephanie S. Tolan
Reading Level: 5.5
Details: Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.
- **The View From Saturday** – E.L. Koningsburg
Reading Level: 5.9
Details: Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.
- **The House of the Scorpion** – Nancy Farmer
Reading Level: 6.1
Details: In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.
- **Catherine Called Birdy** – Karen Cushman
Reading Level: 6.4
Details: The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.
- **A Single Shard** – Linda Sue Park
Reading Level: 6.6
Details: Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.
- **The Giver** – Lois Lowry
Reading Level: 6.8
Details: Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.
- **Treasure Island** – Robert Louis Stevenson
Reading Level: 8.3
Details: While going through the possessions of a deceased guest who owed them money, the mistress of the inn and her son find a treasure map that leads them to a pirate's fortune.



PART ONE – Graphic Organizer

Please fill in **each** box on the right with what is asked of you in the boxes to the left. Write in neatly and legibly. Your grade will be based on how thorough and accurate your responses are. You must write a minimum of **3 sentences per box**.

Literary Element	
Main Characters (names and traits) 10 pts.	
Setting (where and when the story took place) 10 pts.	
Conflict (the problem) 20 pts.	
Resolution (how the problem was solved) 20 pts.	
Theme (the truth about life revealed in the book) 20 pts.	



This page will serve as the cover sheet for your entire assignment. Please attach your **graphic organizer**, your **artistic presentation**, and the **rubric**. You will turn in all **four** pages on the first day of school.

Name: _____

Where I attended 5th grade: _____

PART ONE:

Book chosen: _____

Did I have at least a **three sentence minimum** in graphic?: _____

PART TWO :

(Circle your choice) Cartoon Painting/Drawing Newspaper

ORDER of Assignments:

Please staple your work together in the order below.

- Pg. 1- "My Summer Assignment" intro page
- Pg. 2- PART ONE graphic organizer
- Pg. 3- PART TWO product (if able to be stapled)
- Pg. 4- PART TWO Rubric

****IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS ON EVERYTHING YOU SUBMIT****

PART TWO Rubric:

I chose option # _____ for my Summer Reading Assignment.

Category	4	3	2	1
Appearance of Project	The project's appearance is professional and polished without distractive elements.	The project's appearance is quite professional and polished with few distractive elements.	The project's appearance is somewhat poor. Some distractive elements.	The project's appearance is quite poor. Many distractive elements.
Content Facts	The project content is exemplary and suggests the student has discovered the important ideas of his/her book.	The project content is good and suggests the student has discovered most of the important facts of his/her book.	The project content is fair/poor and suggests the student has not discovered most of the important facts.	The project content poor and suggests the student has not done sufficient reading.
Images/Models/ Etc.	All images or models are effective and detailed.	All images or models are effective, but there appears to be unrelated details.	Some images or models are effective.	Too few images or models are used to be effective.
Creativity	Project is excellently presented - reflecting creativity and a lot of thought.	Good creative effort. Project is neat and shows evidence of time spent on it.	Some attempt made to add color and originality. Project is neat.	Little attempt to add color or originality. Project has sloppy appearance.
Knowledge	The project demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the book.	The project demonstrates good knowledge of the book.	The project demonstrates some knowledge of the book.	The project demonstrates very little knowledge of the book.