

Language Arts Upper Academy

Summer Home Learning Assignment

6th, 7th and 8th Grade

Students are required to read two books for Language Arts during the summer break. Below is a list of recommended books the students may choose from. Students also have the option to choose books that are not listed below; however, any book chosen outside of the list below, **MUST** be on grade level.

Students may also complete annotated notes as they read their novel. Although annotations are not required, it is a highly recommended skill to acquire as it also assists in developing comprehension. A description of annotated notes is detailed below. Upon returning to school, students will be required to take an Accelerated Reader quiz for the two books they chose to read. Students will be allowed to use their annotated notes for their Accelerated Reader quizzes. **All** assignments and quizzes will be graded.

Title	Author	Genre	ISBN
All the Lovely Bad Ones	Mary Downing Hahn	Fiction	978-0-547-24878-3
Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream	Tonya Lee Stone	Biography	978-0-7636-4502-1
The Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest--and Most Surprising--- Animals on Earth	Steve Jenkins	Nonfiction	978-0-547-55799-1
Animals Anonymous	Rich Michelson	Poetry	978-1-41691-424-2
Anything But Typical	Nora Raleigh Baskins	Fiction	978-1-41699-500-5
Barack Obama: The Politics of Hope	William Davis	Biography	978-1-59556-032-2
The Biography of Chocolate	Adrianna Morganelli	Nonfiction	978-0-7787-2517-6
Blackships Before Troy: The Story of "The Iliad"	Rosemary Sutcliff	Fiction	978-0-5534-9483-9
Blue Lipstick	John Grandits	Poetry	978-0-618-85132-4
Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon	Steve Sheinkin	Nonfiction	978-1-59643-487-5
Breaking Through	Francisco Jimenez	Multicultural Fiction	978-0-618-34248-8
Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cat	Sy Montgomery	Nonfiction	978-0-547-81549-7
Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food	Eric Schlosser	Nonfiction	978-0-618-59394-1
Children of the River	Linda Crew	Multicultural Fiction	978-0-440-21022-1
Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard	Loree Burns	Nonfiction	978-0-8050-9062-8
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice	Phillip Hoose	Multicultural Biography	978-0-374-31322-7
Code Orange	Caroline Cooney	Fiction	978-0-385-73260-4
Code Talker	Joseph Bruchac	Multicultural Fiction	978-0-14-240596-3
Countdown	Ben Mikaelson	Fiction	978-0-7868-1208-0
Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles, America's First Black Paratroopers	Tanya Lee Stone	Nonfiction	978-0-7636-5117-6
Cover-up: Mystery at the Super Bowl	John Feinstein	Sports Fiction	978-0-440-42205-1
The Crossover	Kwame Alexander	Fiction	978-0544107717

SUMMER

Summer Home Learning Assignment

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

Title	Author	Genre	ISBN
Kidnapped in Key West	Edwina Raffa	Historical Fiction	978-1-56164-413-1
Kingdom Keepers	Ridley Pearson	Fiction	978-1-42312-311-8
Last Newspaper Boy	Sue Corbett	Fiction	978-0-525-42205-1
Life As We Knew It	Susan Beth Pfeffer	Science Fiction	978-0-15-206154-8
The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	Science Fiction	978-0786838653
Love That Dog	Sharon Creech	Poetry	978-0-06-440959-9
March: Book One	John Lewis	Nonfiction	978-1-60309-300-2
Money Hungry	Sharon Flake	Multicultural Fiction	978-1-42310-386-8
Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95	Phillip Hoose	Nonfiction	978-0-374-30468-3
The Mouse Rap	Walter Dean Myers	Multicultural Fiction	978-0-06-440356-6
Mysterious Benedict Society	Trenton Lee Stewart	Fantasy	978-0-316-00395-7
Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands	Katherine Roy	Nonfiction	978-1-59643-874-3
Never Mind! A Twin Novel	Avi	Humorous Fiction	978-0-06-054316-7
Paperboy	Vince Vawter	Fiction	978-0-375-99058-8
Peter and the Starcatchers	Dave Barry	Fantasy	978-0-7868-4907-9
Phineas Gage	John Fleishman	Nonfiction	978-0-618-49478-1
Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes	Juan Felipe Herrera	Collective Biography	978-0-8037-3809-6
Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party: A Novel	Compestine Ying Chang	Multicultural Fiction	978-0-312-58149-7
El Rey de Las Octavas	Emma Romeu	Biography	978-1-933-03226-9
Romiette and Julio	Sharon Draper	Multicultural Fiction	978-0-689-84209-2
Savvy	Ingrid Law	Fantasy	978-0-14-241433-0
School of Good and Evil	Soman Chainani	Fiction	978-0-06-210492-6
Schooled	Gordan Korman	Humorous Fiction	978-1-42310-516-9
Silent Bone	E.L. Konisburg	Realistic Fiction	978-0-689-83602-2
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants	Ann Bradshares	Fiction	978-0-3857-3058-7



SUMMER

Annotations

Taking Notes While You Are Reading

Annotations are written notes that show you are thinking about and engaging with the text.

Insightful Annotation Ideas:

1. Use colorful tabs (helps if you cannot write in the book!) Use tabs and/or a separate journal to jot down annotations if you cannot write in the book or are reading a digital book.
2. Create a key and use symbols
3. Annotate using phrases
4. Talk to the Text

What Should You Note in Your Annotations?

- Important plot details
- Point of View
- Character names and traits
- Setting
- Symbols
- Themes
- Examples of literary elements: foreshadowing, irony, flashback, metaphor, personification, etc.
- Unusual sentence structures or language features
- Clarify what an author really means when using figurative language
- Make text to self-text-world connections
- Vocabulary that needs defining

Vocabulary Annotations:

1. Circle an unfamiliar word, highlight context clues in the text, and write inferred definition in the margin.
2. Use word-strategy: Identify base word, Greek/Latin roots, prefixes, and/or suffixes (affixes) to construct meaning of a word. Write the definition of circled word in the margin.
3. Use a dictionary to look up a word. Select the definition that aligns with how the word is used in context of the text. Write the definition in the margin.

Stay Away From (DO NOT USE THESE):

1. I like this.
2. I don't like this.
3. This confuses me.
4. Circling a word and leaving it.
5. Highlighting details without annotations.
6. Using symbols or emoticons (smiley faces, stars, question marks, exclamation points) because they do not show that you read the text.

