

Western Academy 2024 Summer Reading Assignment

Entering Fourth

The Summer Reading Assignment is designed to cultivate a love of reading among our students and prepare them for the fall academic culture at Western Academy. The books, stories and poems have been carefully selected to foster an enjoyable and thoughtful reading experience. The memorized poetry and completed readings are due the first day of school. The first weeks of school will include discussion and work on the summer reading and poetry.

Here are the steps to complete this assignment successfully.

~ **Read** all assigned books, stories, and poems.

~ **Memorize** the poem to recite for the first week of school. Practice reciting it to your family.

Suggestions for enjoyable completion of summer work:

- ~ Read (or have a parent read) some of the stories aloud (unabridged audio books can also be used) while the student reads along with his book. Read the poem aloud at dinner and discuss!
- ~ Set up a schedule early in the summer (for example: 30 minutes of reading every day before lunch).

Books:

- *By the Great Horn Spoon!* by Sid Fleischman; ISBN 9780316286121
- *The Black Stallion* by Walter Farley; ISBN 9780679813439
- *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder; ISBN 9780060581824

Poem:

The Rhodora by Ralph Waldo Emerson

In May, when sea-winds pierced our solitudes,
I found the fresh Rhodora in the woods,
Spreading its leafless blooms in a damp nook,
To please the desert and the sluggish brook.
The purple petals fallen in the pool
Made the black water with their beauty gay;
Here might the red-bird come his plumes to cool,
And court the flower that cheapens his array.
Rhodora! if the sages ask thee why
This charm is wasted on the earth and sky,
Tell them, dear, that, if eyes were made for seeing,
Then beauty is its own excuse for Being;
Why thou wert there, O rival of the rose!
I never thought to ask; I never knew;
But in my simple ignorance suppose
The self-same power that brought me there, brought you.

Other suggested reading:

Buffalo Knife by William O. Steele
Cricket in Times Square by George Selden
Escape from Warsaw by Ian Serraillier
Flaming Arrows by William O. Steele
Gentle Ben by Walt Morey
Ginger Pye by Eleanor Estes
Justin Morgan Had a Horse by Marguerite Henry
Men of Iron by Howard Pyle
Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry
My Side of the Mountain by Jean C. George
Peter Pan by James Barrie
The Box of Delights by John Masefield
The Boy Knight by G.A. Henty
The Centerburg Tales by Robert McCloskey
The Enormous Egg by Oliver Butterworth
The Minstrel in the Tower by Gloria Skurzynski
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier
The Singing Hill by Meindert DeJong
The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
Viking Adventure by Clyde Robert Bulla
Water Buffalo Days by Huynh Quang Nhuong
Winter Danger by William O. Steele

Poem “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll

Poem “Jim” by Hilaire Belloc