

Western Academy 2018 Summer Reading Assignment

Entering Fifth

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. All readings and journal entries are due the first day of school.

Here are the steps to complete this assignment successfully.

- ~ **Obtain** an authentic leather journal with *ruled pages*. Minimum size must be 5 in. by 8 in.
- ~ **Read** all assigned books, stories, and poems listed on the next page.
- ~ **Write** one thoughtful journal entry for each assigned book.
- ~ **Copy** one of the poems, word for word, into your journal.
- ~ **Memorize** one poem to recite for the first week of school. Practice reciting it to your family.
- ~ **Write** a family story and be prepared to tell it on the first day of classes. It can be any length.
- ~ **Label & Date** each entry in your journal.
- ~ **Draw** a line between each entry in your journal.
- ~ **Receive** extra credit for reading other books from the extra reading book list (at the end of this document) and writing extra journal entries.
- ~ **Receive** extra credit for any colored drawings done in your journal, including maps.

Journal entry length and suggestions

When sitting down to write your journal entry, don't get caught up in how long it should be. That is the wrong approach! You've just finished reading a book and you should have plenty of thoughts in your head about the story, the characters, the setting, and the themes that have been brought to life in your imagination. All you need to do now is write down your reflections. Here are a few suggestions for your journal entry.

- Did you enjoy the book? Why or why not?
- What did you think of the characters?
- Who was your favorite character? What did you like about that character?
- What did you learn from this book?
- What could you criticize in this book? Did you disagree with anything?
- If you could speak with the author, what would you ask him or her?
- What part of this book would you most like to live out?

By the time you are done reflecting, you almost surely will have written one paragraph (which is the minimum journal entry length).

Journal entry DOs and DON'Ts

- DO write clearly and neatly
- DON'T give plot or story summary (we already know the story – we want to know what you think!)
- DO draw a line after each entry
- DO put a date on each entry
- DO label each entry like this: Reflection on (Book Title)

Books may be purchased anywhere. If you order from [Blue Willow Bookshop](#) through May 5, books will be delivered for free to your son's homeroom and the school will receive 15% of sales for all purchases.

Stories:

- [The Magician's Nephew](#) by CS Lewis
- [Swallows and Amazons](#) by Arthur Ransome
- [Where the Red Fern Grows](#) by Wilson Rawls

Poems:

- "A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- "Shiloh: A Requiem" by Herman Melville
- "The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
- "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by W. B. Yeats

EVALUATION: The journal will be graded for completeness, thoughtfulness, and neatness.

Summer Reading Assignment Grading Rubric (sample...teacher will complete)

Assignment	Label	Date	Complete	Thoughtful	Neat/Line Drawn	Total
<i>The Magician's Nephew</i>	/1	/1	/5	/10	/3	/20
<i>Swallow and Amazons</i>	/1	/1	/5	/10	/3	/20
<i>Where the Red Fern Grows</i>	/1	/1	/5	/10	/3	/20
Copy of Poem	/1	/1	/5		/3	/10
Family Story*	/1	/1	/5	Storytelling /5	/3	/15
Poem Recitation*			/15			/15
TOTAL SCORE	/5	/5	/40	/35	/15	/100

*The telling of the family story and the poem recitation will take place the first days of school.

Other suggested books (for extra reading):

- [The Story of a Bad Boy](#) by Thomas Bailey Aldrich
- [Little Lord Fauntleroy](#) by Frances Hodges Burnett
- [Pedro's Journal](#) by Pam Conrad
- [Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#) by Roald Dahl
- [James and the Giant Peach](#) by Roald Dahl
- [Robinson Crusoe](#) by Daniel Defoe
- [The Wheel on the School](#) by Meindert DeJong
- [True to the Old Flag](#) by G.A. Henty
- [Stowaway](#) by Karen Hesse
- [The Princess and The Goblin](#) by George MacDonald
- [The Golden Goblet](#) by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
- [The Good Master](#) by Kate Seredy
- [The Bronze Bow](#) by Elizabeth George Speare
- [Sign of the Beaver](#) by Elizabeth George Speare
- [Warrior Scarlet](#) by Rosemary Sutcliff
- [Farmer Giles of Ham](#) by J.R.R. Tolkien
- [The Happy Prince and Other Tales](#) by Oscar Wilde
- [Tarka the Otter](#) by Henry Williamson

5th Grade Summer Poems

A Psalm of Life
Shiloh – A Requiem
The Charge of the Light Brigade
The Lake Isle of Innisfree



A Psalm of Life

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

What the Heart of the Young Man Said to the Psalmist.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act,— act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Shiloh: A Requiem
by Herman Melville

Skimming lightly, wheeling still,
The swallows fly low
Over the field in clouded days,
The forest-field of Shiloh—
Over the field where April rain
Solaced the parched ones stretched in pain
Through the pause of night
That followed the Sunday fight
Around the church of Shiloh—
The church so lone, the log-built one,
That echoed to many a parting groan
And natural prayer
Of dying foemen mingled there—
Foemen at morn, but friends at eve—
Fame or country least their care:
(What like a bullet can undeceive!)
But now they lie low,
While over them the swallows skim,
And all is hushed at Shiloh.

The Charge of the Light Brigade
by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I
Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
“Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!” he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

II
“Forward, the Light Brigade!”
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

III

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
 Rode the six hundred.

IV

Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
 All the world wondered.
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre stroke
 Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not
 Not the six hundred.

V

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
 Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell.
They that had fought so well
Came through the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of hell,
All that was left of them,
 Left of six hundred.

VI

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
 All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
 Noble six hundred!

The Lake Isle of Innisfree

by W. B. Yeats

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made:
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee;
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping
slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket
sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.