

**Western Academy 2023 Summer Reading Assignment**  
***Entering Sixth***

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).

~ Take notes after reading so you are ready for the summer reading assignments upon returning to school in the fall.

**Books:**

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain; ISBN 9780141321103
- *Big Red* by Jim Kjelgaard (Fiction) (only available in hardcover); ISBN 9780823442652
- *The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare (Historical Fiction); ISBN 9780395137192

**Poem:**

**The Destruction of Sennacherib**  
by Lord Byron

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,  
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;  
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,  
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,  
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:  
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,  
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,  
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;  
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,  
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!

(poem continued)

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,  
But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;  
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,  
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,  
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:  
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,  
The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,  
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;  
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,  
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

Other suggested reading:

*Crash* by Jerry Spinelli (Fiction); ISBN 9780679885504

*Icefall* by Matthew J. Kirby (Fiction/Fantasy); ISBN 9780545274258

*The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury (Science Fiction); ISBN 9781451678192

*The Odyssey* by Rosemary Sutcliff; ISBN 9780553494822

*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss (Adventure Fiction); ISBN 9780141325309

*The Yearling* by Marjorie Rowlings; ISBN 9780689846236

Other suggested poems:

“A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow