



June, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Middle School Students,

The excitement of the summer season is upon us! We look forward to the wonderful experiences and fun family adventures that the months ahead are sure to bring all of us! However, we must also keep in mind the importance of continued skill-building and reinforcement, so that the progress gained this year is retained in the weeks spent away from the structured learning environment. Leading educational research indicates that advancement in academic achievement is clearly related to the amount of consistent practice a student dedicates to a specific skill, in order to sustain and improve it. With that in mind, the language arts teachers have created a summer program designed to enhance and maintain the reading and grammar aptitude students gained throughout this current school year, while preparing them for the new areas of focus they will encounter as the next academic year begins.

All middle school students are asked to complete two components of summer work for language arts. First, in continuation of our traditional summer reading requirements, we are providing a list of four book titles for grades six through eight. From this list, students must select two novels that they would like to read (we recommend looking up summaries of the books prior to selection). When they have finished reading each book, all students must complete a short multiple choice quiz about what they have read. The reading list and quizzes that coincide with your child's grade level are included in this packet. On their first day of language arts class for the 2021-2022 school year, students will be given directions from their teachers about submitting these completed quizzes. **Please be aware that these quizzes will be considered a reading comprehension grade, which is the language arts assessment category weighted the most heavily in middle school. Therefore, completion of this assignment will be a vital component to starting the year off strongly in language arts.**

In an effort to help students improve and further their essential skills for the study of English language arts, we are again implementing the use of the IXL program that has been used in both ELA and math middle school classes for the past few years. For the sake of consistency, we are aligning the summer work requirements for language arts with those of math. **Students must spend a total of ten hours on IXL, dedicated primarily to grammar practice, throughout the summer break.** These hours must occur sometime between June 14 and August 31, 2021, and will be tracked by the language arts department, to ensure the guidelines are met. In order to benefit most fully from this practice, we strongly recommend that students spread their ten hours out throughout the summer, rather than attempt to fulfill this requirement in a shorter time frame (for example, spending just 15 minutes a day practicing a skill would allow a student to complete the IXL requirement with ease, while also keeping the content fresh and consistently relevant). Of course, students may spend as much additional time on IXL as they wish, once the ten hour mark has been reached. Student progress will be reviewed by the teachers, and all students who fulfill the practice requirements listed above will receive a score of 10/10 on this part of their summer work. We have included the IXL link, sign-in information,



## The Sacred Heart School of Glyndon

and recommended topic review list for language arts as an attachment to this letter. As the topics we have outlined include an emphasis on the most basic skills, along with some more advanced practice, we ask that students spend a clear majority of their ten hour requirement in the areas we have listed for their grade. Otherwise, we cannot conclude that their ten hours have been spent improving their skill on the appropriate level, or award full credit for completion.

We appreciate your support and continued involvement in your child's education. **Please check in with your child regularly, to ensure that all the requirements of summer work in language arts are being completed correctly.** That way, we can all enjoy a strong start to the next school year, well-prepared, and ready to progress to the next level.

We wish you a summer filled with blessings, priceless moments, and happy days. We look forward to working with you again as we begin the next school year!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Middle School Language Arts Teachers



**Incoming Eighth Grade Language Arts Summer Work:**

**(BOTH COMPONENT ONE AND COMPONENT TWO ARE REQUIRED, GRADED ASSIGNMENTS):**

**Component One: Novel List**

**(Please choose TWO from this list to read, and complete the corresponding multiple choice quizzes that are enclosed in this packet):**

- *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, by Mitch Albom
- *Habibi*, by Naomi Shihab Nye
- *Stella by Starlight*, by Sharon M. Draper
- *Watership Down*, by Richard Adams

**Component Two: IXL Grammar Skill Practice Requirements**

**Be aware: if you do not use the portal and your personal sign-in information, your time will not be recorded, and credit cannot be awarded!**

**IXL Web Address: <https://www.ixl.com/signin/shschool>**

**Student Sign-In Information:**

Your user name is the first initial of your first name, followed by your last name, all in lower-case letters. For example, John Smith would sign in with the user name of jsmith. The password for all students is shg (all lowercase). This is the same sign-in information that you will use for math.

(Remember, all students must spend at least TEN hours practicing skills in the following topics. For full credit to be awarded, students must spend their time practicing skills in several different categories, spreading the required time out across the various skill sets, rather than logging in several hours on just one or two skills sets).

**(skill list is given on following page)**



The following skills are listed under the **seventh** grade tab, in the following categories, for reinforcement of basic concepts:

**Grammar and Mechanics:**

- Sentences, Fragments, and Run-Ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Verbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives and Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Prepositions (all skills listed in this section)
- Commas (all skills listed in this section)
- Semicolons, Colons, and Commas (all skills listed in this section)
- Capitalization (all skills listed in this section)
- Formatting (all skills listed in this section)

The following skills are found under the **eighth** grade tab, to prepare for eighth grade level work:

**Reading Strategies:**

- Main Idea: Determine the Main Idea
- Theme: Determine the Themes of Short Stories
- Literary Devices: Analyze the Effects of Figures of Speech on Meaning and Tone
- Analyzing Informational Texts: Read and Understand Informational Passages
- Analyzing Informational Texts: Trace an Argument

**Writing Strategies:**

- Organizing Writing: Transitions with Conjunctive Adverbs
- Developing and Supporting Arguments: Choose Evidence to Support a Claim
- Creative Techniques: Create Varied Sentences Based on Models
- Citations: Identify Plagiarism

**Grammar and Mechanics:**

- Sentences, Fragments, and Run-Ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Prepositions (all skills listed in this section)

***(skill list continued on following page)***



***(Eighth grade Grammar/Mechanics Skills cont'd)***

- Direct and Indirect Objects (all skills listed in this section)
- Conjunctions (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronouns and Antecedents (all skills listed in this section)
- Verb Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives and Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Commas (all skills listed in this section)
- Semicolons, Colons, and Commas (all skills listed in this section)
- Capitalization (all skills listed in this section)
- Formatting (all skills listed in this section)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup> Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

### ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven***

1. **What lesson does the Blue Man give Eddie?**
  - A. What comes around, goes around
  - B. No life is a waste
  - C. See a penny; pick it up; all day long you'll have good luck
  - D. Cherish the ones you are with
2. **When Eddie and the Captain were captured in the Philippines, where were they sent as prisoners of war?**
  - A. They were sent back
  - B. Burma Railway
  - C. A coal mine
  - D. Prisoner of war camp
3. **What lesson did the Captain give to Eddie, about his life?**
  - A. War is evil
  - B. Sacrifice is a part of life
  - C. You cannot outrun death
  - D. There is honor in serving your country
4. **Although Eddie has never met Ruby, what is the connection between the two of them?**
  - A. The fun fair at the pier
  - B. She is his long lost sister
  - C. She is his mother
  - D. He has saved her life
5. **What lesson does Ruby teach Eddie about life?**
  - A. Honesty is the best policy
  - B. Don't get angry; get even
  - C. Self-respect
  - D. Forgiveness
6. **Where did Eddie find Marguerite, his wife and one true love?**
  - A. In a world of weddings
  - B. In a world of children
  - C. In a world made of chocolate
  - D. Alone in a void
7. **What was the cause of Marguerite's death?**
  - A. She was murdered
  - B. A car accident
  - C. She drowned at the fun fair
  - D. A tumor on her brain
8. **What did Tala ask Eddie to do?**
  - A. To beg for forgiveness
  - B. To make her a dog from pipe cleaners
  - C. To wash her
  - D. To go away
9. **What lesson did Tala teach Eddie?**
  - A. That he is not alone
  - B. All's well that ends well
  - C. Eddie made up for Tala's death by working at the fair
  - D. That he must repent his sins
10. **What question did Eddie ask each of the five people he met?**
  - A. "Am I going to enter heaven?"
  - B. "The little girl at the pier; did I save her?"
  - C. "Am I really dead?"
  - D. "Am I forgiven?"



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup> Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

***Habibi***

**1. What does “Habibi” mean?**

- A. “Daughter”
- B. “Darling”
- C. “Little One”
- D. “Precious”

**2. What does Mr. Abboud do for a living?**

- A. He is a lawyer
- B. He is a college professor
- C. He is a politician
- D. He is a doctor

**3. What article of clothing does Liyana’s father tell her not to pack?**

- A. Her shorts
- B. A skirt
- C. Her socks
- D. Her tank top

**4. What is the main cause for the violence in Jerusalem?**

- A. The Greeks don’t like the Palestinians or the Jews
- B. The Jews and Palestinians fight over who should control the land
- C. The Jews and Palestinians want the British to rule again
- D. The United States attacked Jerusalem

**5. The school Liyana will attend is**

- A. Lithuanian
- B. Jewish
- C. Armenian
- D. Palestinian

**6. As Liyana spends more time with Sitti, she**

- A. Finds out she knows more Arabic than she originally thought
- B. Decides she can’t get along with Sitti
- C. Discovers that she doesn’t need words to communicate with Sitti
- D. Understands that Sitti likes Rafik better than her

**7. Who are Nadine and Khaled?**

- A. The children of the Abboud’s landlords
- B. Liyana and Rafik’s cousins
- C. Schoolmates of Liyana’s, who become her friends
- D. Children who live in a refugee camp

**8. What poses a big threat to Liyana’s relationship with Omer?**

- A. He is Armenian
- B. He is moving away
- C. He is Jewish, and she is half-Arabian
- D. His family is poor

**9. On Liyana’s birthday, Omer gives her**

- A. The green lamp from the Sandrounis’ shop
- B. A notebook
- C. Flowers
- D. A cake

**10. Who does Sitti insist must go with her to see the Sea of Galilee?**

- A. Liyana
- B. Omer
- C. Khaled
- D. Poppy



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup> Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

### ***Stella by Starlight***

1. **What is the setting of this novel?**
  - A. 1923, Raleigh, NC
  - B. 1923, Blue Ridge, NC
  - C. 1932, Bubblebee, SC
  - D. 1932, Bumblebee, NC
2. **The walls of Stella's house are covered in**
  - A. Wallpaper
  - B. Newspaper
  - C. Old paint
  - D. Her mother's recipes
3. **Students in Stella's class are in what grade?**
  - A. Fifth grade only
  - B. First through fifth grade
  - C. Fifth through eighth grade
  - D. First through eleventh grade
4. **Why does Stella like her name?**
  - A. It was her grandmother's name
  - B. It reminds her of stars, and she likes the night
  - C. It means "full moon," and she likes the night
  - D. It means "midnight," and she likes the night
5. **On the day he registers to vote, Stella's father tells her he needs her to be**
  - A. His honeygirl
  - B. His reader, because of his bad eyesight
  - C. His helper
  - D. His standing stone
6. **What is the climax, or turning point of this novel?**
  - A. Two frogs hop out of Mrs. Grayson's piano
  - B. Stella and Jojo see the burning cross across the pond
  - C. The Spencers' house is set on fire
  - D. The Mills family celebrates Christmas
7. **Who is Stella's father voting for in the Presidential election?**
  - A. Herbert Hoover
  - B. Pastor Patton
  - C. Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - D. Dwight D. Eisenhower
8. **Who takes the cookie Stella was given at the general store?**
  - A. Mr. O'Brian
  - B. Max Smitherman
  - C. Johnny Ray Johnson
  - D. Tony Hawkins
9. **What event in Chapter 41 echoes something that occurred in *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*?**
  - A. Stella's brother's friend is blamed for a crime he didn't commit
  - B. Stella's class is sent books that are in horrible condition from the white school
  - C. Stella's father goes to work in another state
  - D. Stella's father has "an accident" that leaves him severely injured
10. **Why was Paulette Packard at the pond at night?**
  - A. She wanted to apologize to Stella because her father wouldn't help her mother
  - B. She left the house because her parents were fighting
  - C. She wanted to borrow Stella's coat
  - D. She snuck out to check on Stella's mother





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8<sup>th</sup> Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

### ***Watership Down***

1. **What does Fiver believe he sees on the field?**
  - A. dead rabbits
  - B. blood
  - C. a tremendous flood
  - D. poison
2. **Why does Bigwig have a good knowledge of human behavior?**
  - A. He used to be a chief rabbit
  - B. He was raised by humans
  - C. He used to steal lettuce and encountered humans along the way
  - D. He can understand when humans speak
3. **What turned out to be dangerous about Cowslip's warren?**
  - A. It was created by a farmer who raises rabbits for meat
  - B. It was built over an older warren
  - C. The food eaten there isn't what rabbits normally eat
  - D. The rabbits there were angered by Hazel's group's presence
4. **Based on the way it's used, what must the title "rah" mean?**
  - A. It is an insult
  - B. It has something to do with leadership and strength
  - C. It means brother
  - D. It is a sign of friendship
5. **Who is the Black Rabbit of Inlé?**
  - A. Captain Woundwort
  - B. Another name for El-ahrairah
  - C. A symbol of death
  - D. Bigwig
6. **What is the biggest way Hazel is like El-ahrairah?**
  - A. They are both cunning and clever
  - B. They are both strong
  - C. They both had brothers named Fiver
  - D. They greatly resembled each other in appearance
7. **What does Hazel go to Nuthanger Farm in search of?**
  - A. Food
  - B. A new home
  - C. Help
  - D. Does
8. **Who is sent to act as a member of Woundwort's warren?**
  - A. Pipkin
  - B. Blackberry
  - C. Bigwig
  - D. Hazel
9. **What happens to General Woundwort at the end of the battle?**
  - A. He dies
  - B. He goes back to Efrafa
  - C. He decides to live in Watership Down
  - D. He disappears
10. **In the Epilogue, why doesn't the sentry at Hazel's door see the visitor with Hazel?**
  - A. The visitor is El-ahrairah, who has come for the dying Hazel and is invisible to everyone else
  - B. The sentry is asleep
  - C. The visitor knocked the sentry unconscious
  - D. It is nighttime, and too dark to see properly