



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,



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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



The Sacred Heart School of Glyndon

Incoming Seventh 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)

- *Harbor Me*, by Jacqueline Woodson
- *The House of Dies Drear*, by Virginia Hamilton
- *My Brother Sam is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, by Avi

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. Full credit will be awarded to students who 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)



Skills listed under the **sixth** grade tab, in the following categories, for reinforcement of basic skills:

Writing Strategies:

- Creative Techniques: Create Varied Sentences Based on Models

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Sentences, Fragments, and Run-Ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Verb Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Prepositions (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives/Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Punctuation (all skills listed in this section)
- Capitalization (all skills listed in this section)
- Formatting (all skills listed in this section)

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

Reading Strategies:

- Main Idea: Determine the Main Idea
- Theme: Determine the themes of short stories
- Analyzing Informational Texts: Read and Understand Informational Passages

Writing Strategies:

- Organizing Writing: Organize Information by Main Idea
- Organizing Writing: Transitions with Conjunctive Adverbs

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Sentences, Fragments, and Run-ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (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)
- Semi-colons, 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 _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

Harbor Me

1. **The first time Haley sees Esteban in class, she wants to**
 - A. say “hello”
 - B. hug him
 - C. tell him that he doesn’t belong in their group
 - D. ask him about his papi
2. **Who comes up with the idea that the room should be called the “A-R-T room--A Room to Talk?”**
 - A. Ashton
 - B. Tiago
 - C. Amari
 - D. Ms Laverne
3. **This novel mostly takes place in**
 - A. The Bronx, a borough in New York City
 - B. Queens, a borough in New York City
 - C. Manhattan, a borough in New York City
 - D. Brooklyn, a borough in New York City
4. **Esteban reveals that his mami thinks his papi may be taken**
 - A. back to the Dominican Republic
 - B. to the same prison as Haley’s father
 - C. to Puerto Rico
 - D. to his aunt’s house in Queens
5. **The kids agree to meet back in the ARTT room in**
 - A. at the end of eighth grade
 - B. in twenty years
 - C. when they are twenty years old
 - D. high school
6. **When does Holly knit each year, in memory of her grandmother?**
 - A. from April through the end of the school year
 - B. from December through April
 - C. whenever she thinks about her
 - D. over Christmas break
7. **One of Esteban’s father’s poems states that “When you are with your people, you are_____.”**
 - A. home
 - B. happy
 - C. a blank white page
 - D. loved
8. **Haley says one thing she does not want to remember about her father is**
 - A. the color of his eyes
 - B. his prison number
 - C. his voice
 - D. that he loved her mother
9. **In English, the name of Tiago’s dog means**
 - A. “big dog”
 - B. “Dog who can speak Spanish”
 - C. “little dog”
 - D. “my dog”
10. **The first thing Haley asks Kira about her mom is**
 - A. why her mom named her Haley
 - B. what her mom loved
 - C. what color her mom liked to paint her nails
 - D. how her mom died



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

The House of Dies Drear

1. **The Small family moves to**
 - A. Oklahoma
 - B. Ohio
 - C. Idaho
 - D. Illinois
2. **Dies Drear**
 - A. used to own the house
 - B. is the caretaker of the house
 - C. burned the house down
 - D. is the name of the town
3. **Thomas' father is a professor of**
 - A. English
 - B. mathematics
 - C. history
 - D. physics
4. **What metal shape is put on the family's doors at night?**
 - A. triangle
 - B. square
 - C. circle
 - D. rectangle
5. **The Smalls find out that Pluto and Mr. Darrow**
 - A. were brothers
 - B. did not get along
 - C. were good friends
 - D. were runaway slaves
6. **The house was once used as**
 - A. a railroad station
 - B. a library
 - C. a slave house
 - D. a stop for the Underground Railroad.
7. **The metal shapes were originally used**
 - A. as musical instruments
 - B. to tell slaves which direction to go when trying to escape
 - C. as signals to tell when it was dinner time
 - D. as part of a religious ceremony
8. **Pluto is related to**
 - A. Dies Drear
 - B. The Small family
 - C. the third slave who was not killed
 - D. a slave of the Drear family
9. **Pluto is guarding Dies Drear's**
 - A. treasure
 - B. family
 - C. mansion
 - D. artwork
10. **Mr. Small promises**
 - A. to destroy the house
 - B. to leave the state
 - C. not to reveal the secret of the treasure
 - D. to make friends with the Darrow family



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

My Brother Sam is Dead

1. **What is the setting of this novel?**
 - A. Maryland, during the War of 1812
 - B. Connecticut, during the Revolutionary War
 - C. New York, during the Civil War
 - D. Massachusetts, during the American Revolution
2. **How old is Sam when the story begins?**
 - A. Twenty-one
 - B. Nineteen
 - C. Eighteen
 - D. Sixteen
3. **Who is a captain in Sam's first military company?**
 - A. George Washington
 - B. Benedict Arnold
 - C. Thomas Jefferson
 - D. Patrick Henry
4. **Who wants Tim to deliver a letter to Fairfield?**
 - A. Betsy Read
 - B. Mr. Beach
 - C. Colonel Read
 - D. Mr. Heron
5. **Why do Mr. Meeker and Tim go to Verplancks Point?**
 - A. To join the Continental Army
 - B. To join the Lobsterbacks
 - C. To sell cattle
 - D. To see relatives
6. **What boy is captured by the British in April of 1777?**
 - A. Tom Warrups
 - B. Sam Meeker
 - C. Tim Meeker
 - D. Jerry Sanford
7. **What is the ultimate fate of Mr. Meeker?**
 - A. He returns home
 - B. He dies on a British prison ship
 - C. He dies on a Rebel prison ship
 - D. He is killed during a cattle stampede
8. **Why does Sam return to Redding in December of 1778?**
 - A. To work at the tavern
 - B. To spy for the Patriots
 - C. Regimental encampment
 - D. His enlistment is over
9. **Why is Sam court-martialed?**
 - A. He is accused of being a cattle thief
 - B. He is accused of being a deserter
 - C. He is accused of being a traitor
 - D. He is accused of being a spy
10. **What is the ultimate fate of Mrs. Meeker and Tim?**
 - A. They are imprisoned by the Patriots
 - B. They are imprisoned by the British
 - C. They move to Pennsylvania
 - D. They stay in their original home



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

1. Where is the key to Captain Jaggery's safe kept?

- A. Inside his silver teapot
- B. Under the Captain's mattress
- C. At the back of his Bible
- D. Behind his daughter's portrait

2. Which three characters spent time in or near the ship's hold?

- A. Barlow, Keetch, and Jaggery
- B. Charlotte, Hollybrass, and Zachariah
- C. Cranick, Keetch, and Fisk
- D. Cranick, Zachariah, and Charlotte

3. Who owns the Seahawk?

- A. Charlotte's uncle
- B. Captain Jaggery
- C. Charlotte's father
- D. Charlotte's grandfather

4. Why has Charlotte been in England when the novel begins?

- A. She's been attending school
- B. She's been visiting grandparents
- C. She's been in a hospital
- D. She's been visiting friends

5. What was the purpose for crewmembers that resigned on the Seahawk's voyage to Providence?

- A. To see America
- B. To get revenge
- C. To earn high wages
- D. To escape going to jail in England

6. How did Charlotte prove her worthiness as a sailor?

- A. She fetched Ewing a needle
- B. She cut her hair and wore clothes like the others
- C. She prepared hardtack for the entire crew
- D. She climbed to the top of the royal yard

7. What is the major difference between Part I and Part II of the novel?

- A. Part I is before the hurricane, Part II is after
- B. Mr. Cranick is no longer on board
- C. Captain Jaggery, the tyrant leader, becomes Jaggery, the caring Captain
- D. Miss Doyle, the passenger, becomes Charlotte, the sailor

8. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle takes place in what year?

- A. 1880
- B. 1609
- C. 1750
- D. 1832

9. What is the novel's main conflict?

- A. Arriving in Providence before winter sets in
- B. Overcoming the injustice of Captain Jaggery
- C. Recovering from seasickness
- D. Surviving a hurricane at sea

10. What does Zachariah give Charlotte for protecting herself?

- A. A pistol
- B. A dog
- C. A dirk
- D. A musket