



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 Sixth 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):

- *Call it Courage*, by Armstrong Sperry
- *The Golden Goblet*, by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
- *A Single Shard*, by Linda Sue Park
- *We Belong*, by Cookie Hiponia Everman

### 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. The expectation for full credit to be awarded is that students will 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 fifth grade tab, in the following categories, for reinforcement of basic concepts:

Writing Strategies:

- Organizing Writing: Choose the Best Transition
- Organizing Writing: Organize Information by Main Idea

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 and 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 are found under the sixth grade tab, to prepare for sixth-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

Vocabulary:

- Context Clues: Find Words Using Context
- Context Clues: Determine the Meaning of Words Using Synonyms in Context
- Context Clues: Use Context to Identify the Meaning of a Word

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Sentences, fragments, and run-ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun types (all skills listed in this section)
- Verb types (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives and Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Prepositions (all skills listed in this section)
- Conjunctions (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)



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

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

***Call It Courage***

1. **What does the name “Mafatu” mean?**
  - A. Stout Heart
  - B. Weak One
  - C. The Boy Who Was Afraid
  - D. Great Chief
2. **Mafatu is alone, except for**
  - A. Moana, his stepmother
  - B. His father
  - C. Kivi an albatross and Uri, a dog
  - D. Chief Nui
3. **How did the canoe hold up in the raging sea?**
  - A. The canoe broke completely into two pieces
  - B. It splintered in the storm and the sea crept into it
  - C. It received no damage in the storm
  - D. The sails split and the mast broke off
4. **As soon as Mafatu reached land, he**
  - A. wanted a drink
  - B. wanted to run
  - C. passed out
  - D. had dinner
5. **What was in the middle of the island?**
  - A. a waterfall
  - B. a volcano
  - C. a village
  - D. a huge rock
6. **What was Mafatu’s first sign that someone had been on the island?**
  - A. He spotted footprints on the beach
  - B. The bananas had been cut by a knife
  - C. He saw human bones
  - D. He saw a cup and a bowl carved from wood
7. **Who was in charge of keeping firewood in Hikueru?**
  - A. The mother
  - B. The youngest boys
  - C. The youngest family members
  - D. The father
8. **When he dove into the sea to retrieve his knife, Mafatu was attacked by**
  - A. an octopus
  - B. a jellyfish
  - C. a shark
  - D. a stingray
9. **How many warriors were after Mafatu?**
  - A. Six
  - B. Ten
  - C. Sixty
  - D. Fifty
10. **How did the Great Chief respond to Mafatu's return?**
  - A. He was proud of his son.
  - B. He called Mafatu a brave boy.
  - C. He was joyful.
  - D. All the above



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

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

***The Golden Goblet***

1. **Who is Lotus?**
  - A. Ranofer's mother
  - B. A donkey
  - C. Gebu's friend
  - D. The queen of Egypt
2. **The best way to define a "kheft" is**
  - A. A member of the royal family
  - B. A dead body
  - C. A spirit
  - D. An Egyptian god
3. **What does Ranofer realize about the Goblet?**
  - A. It must have been stolen from a king's tomb and is over 100 years old
  - B. Gebu must have stolen it from Zau
  - C. It was stolen from the tomb of Thutra
  - D. It was made for him by his father
4. **What does Ibni give Ranofer to take to Gebu?**
  - A. Gold
  - B. Wineskins
  - C. Papyrus
  - D. Tools
5. **What does Rekh discover is missing from his shop?**
  - A. A goblet
  - B. Coppers
  - C. Wineskins
  - D. Gold
6. **Who is an apprentice goldsmith?**
  - A. Ranofer
  - B. Ibni
  - C. Kai
  - D. Heqet
7. **What does the festival celebrate?**
  - A. The flooding of the Nile
  - B. A good harvest
  - C. The king and Queen's rule
  - D. Those who have gone to the City of the Dead
8. **Whose tomb does Ranofer witness Gebu robbing?**
  - A. Huaa and Tuaa
  - B. Their father's
  - C. Thutmose the Conqueror
  - D. Queen Tiy
9. **What was against the north wall of the burial chamber?**
  - A. a rock pile
  - B. an oaken staff
  - C. the coffins
  - D. a crevice
10. **Who does Ranofer see robbing the tomb with Gebu?**
  - A. Ibni
  - B. Wenamon
  - C. Setma
  - D. Qa-nefer



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

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

***A Single Shard***

1. **Where and when does this novel take place?**
  - A. Tenth-century China
  - B. Twelfth-century Korea
  - C. Twelfth-century China
  - D. Tenth-century Korea
2. **Tree-ear offers to work for Min**
  - A. so he can learn how to make a clay duck
  - B. because Min is very old and needs help
  - C. because he wants to repay Min after he broke the potter's work
  - D. because he knows Min will pay him a lot of money
3. **The first task Min gives Tree-ear is**
  - A. to bring back a load of clay
  - B. to help throw clay
  - C. to deliver a message
  - D. to chop wood
4. **Which animals are believed to have "evil magic?"**
  - A. foxes
  - B. bears
  - C. cats
  - D. wolves
5. **Tree Ear's name means**
  - A. "Branch of a Tree"
  - B. "Leaves of a Tree"
  - C. "Mushroom"
  - D. "Root"
6. **Crane-man was given his name because**
  - A. his cane is shaped like a crane
  - B. his disability forced him to only walk on one leg
  - C. his nose looks like a crane's beak
  - D. he was named after his father
7. **Tree-ear loses the vases when**
  - A. he is robbed
  - B. he falls down the cliff
  - C. the jiggeh breaks
  - D. he throws them off the cliff
8. **What does Kang do that makes his pottery so remarkable?**
  - A. he makes cups and no one else has ever tried this
  - B. he charges much more than Min
  - C. he puts beautiful designs in his work like no one has ever seen before
  - D. his vases are larger than all others
9. **When Tree-ear presents the single shard, the emissary tells him**
  - A. he will give Min a commission
  - B. one shard is not enough to judge Min's work
  - C. the work is not as good as Kang's
  - D. he is insulted that Tree-ear asked to see him and had nothing to show him
10. **Hyung-pil is**
  - A. the name of Min's son who died
  - B. what Tree-ear calls Min's wife
  - C. the name of the emissary
  - D. the name Tree-ear is given when he becomes part of a family



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

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

***We Belong***

1. **Bathala Maykapal is**
  - A. the name of a song
  - B. the father of all
  - C. the name of a sweet dessert
  - D. another name for Earth
2. **When Bathala sees Dalisay for the first time,**
  - A. she was dying
  - B. she offered to do his laundry
  - C. she gave him a drink
  - D. she was singing
3. **When Elsie and Kuya Nes tears down their mother's curtains by swinging on them, instead of beating them, their Father**
  - A. sings
  - B. moves away
  - C. laughs
  - D. tells their mother to do it
4. **The youngest of Bathala's heavenly children, who loved Earth so much that she was banished from Heaven was named**
  - A. Dalisay
  - B. Tala
  - C. Bighari
  - D. Mayari
5. **The goddess of the seas, and eternal nemesis of Bathala is**
  - A. Aman Sinaya
  - B. Dalisay
  - C. Mayari
  - D. Tala
6. **When Bathala is dying, the legacy he bestows on Mayari is**
  - A. Araw, the Sun
  - B. Tala, the Star
  - C. Buan, the Moon
  - D. Apolaki, the Warrior
7. **When Marcos gains control of the Philippines, and Elsie's family is able to leave, where do they go?**
  - A. To live permanently at their lola's house
  - B. To America
  - C. To live with Tito Boy
  - D. To live in Ayala Alabang Village
8. **What happens on December 4, 1984, at 10:00 p.m.?**
  - A. The Aguilas of Jersey City have a snowball fight
  - B. Elsie's family goes to Disneyland
  - C. Elsie tells her daughters a story
  - D. Elsie's family buys their first house
9. **What snack does Walter give Elsie and her siblings when they are running away?**
  - A. SPAM and egg sandwiches
  - B. pastillas
  - C. cookies
  - D. pork adobo
10. **After spending three years in America, Elsie's family buys a house in**
  - A. Los Angeles
  - B. Baltimore
  - C. Jersey City
  - D. The Philippines