

June 2007

Dear Parents and Incoming 5th Graders,

First of all, best wishes for a relaxing and happy summer vacation! In order to be successful in the 5th grade, it is essential that good reading and writing skills continue to develop over the long summer months. Therefore, it is mandatory that all incoming 5th graders read at least three books and complete the attached assignments prior to the first day of school on September 5, 2007.

Attached is a list of recommended books for your convenience. There is no need to purchase the books; the Elizabeth Public Library is an excellent source for reading materials. Each student should read at least three books; one biography and two works of fiction. The assignments are as follows:

Assignment #1: Read one biography on any person you wish. Follow the attached instructions to complete the report.

Assignment #2: Read one novel and complete the book jacket report following the instructions.

Assignment #3: Read another novel and write a letter to the author following the instructions.

Each assignment will be graded and will count towards the first marking period report card. We are looking forward to a productive and wonderful 2007-2008 school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robyn Mack and Mrs. Judith Simon
5th Grade Reading/Language Arts Teachers

GRADE 5

AUTHOR	TITLE
Alexander, Lloyd	The Book of Three
Avi	True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
Babbitt, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting
Balliett, Blue	Chasing Vermeer
Barron, T.A.	Lost Years of Merlin
Byars, Betsy	Death's Door
Carbone, Elisa Lynn	Storm Warriors
Christopher, Matt	Soccer Duel
Cleary, Beverly	Dear Mr. Henshaw
Clements, Andrew	Frindle
Collier, James	My Brother, Sam is Dead
Collins, Susan	Gregor the Overlander
Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons
DiCamillo, Kate	Tale of Despereaux
Divakaruni, Chitra	Conch Bearer
Edmonds, Walter Dumau	Matchlock Gun
Farmer, Nancy	Girl Named Disaster
Feinstein, John	Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery
Fitzgerald, John	Great Brain
Fox, Paula	One Eyed Cat
Funke, Cornelia	Inkheart
Gantos, Jack	Jack on the Tracks
George, Jean Craighead	My Side of the Mountain
Gipson, Fred	Old Yeller
Gutman, Dan	Million Dollar Kick
Haddix, Margaret	Among the Hidden
Hahn, Mary	Stepping on the Cracks
Hale, Shannon	Princess Academy
Hamilton, Virginia	The House of Dies Drear
Hannigan, Katherine	Ida B. and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster and (Possibly) Change the World
Henry, Marguerite	King of the Wind
Hilgartner, Beth	Murder For Her Majesty
Hobbs, Will	Jason's Gold
Hoobler, Dorothy	Ghost in the Tokaido Inn
Horowitz, Anthony	Stormbreaker
Horvath, Polly	Everything On A Waffle
Ibbotson, Eva	Secret of Platform 13

GRADE 5

Jackson, Alison	Blowing Bubbles With the Enemy
Kehret, Peg	Danger At the Fair
Konigsburg, E.L.	View From Saturday
Korman, Gordon	Chasing the Falconers
Liste, Janet Taylor	Lost Flower Children
Lowry, Lois	Number the Stars
Maguire, Gregory	Seven Spiders Spinning
Mikaelson, Ben	Touching Spirit Bear
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Shiloh
Nix, Garth	Mister Monday
Nixon, Jean Lowery	A Family Apart
O'Brien, Robert	Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of N.I.H.M.
Paterson, Katherine	Bridge to Teribithia
Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet
Pierce, Tamora	First Test
Raskin, Ellen	The Westing Game
Robinson, Barbara	Best School Year Ever
Rowling, J.K.	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Ryan, Pamela Munoz	Esperanza Rising
Spinelli, Jerry	Maniac Magee
Taylor, Mildred	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Voight, Cynthia	Homecoming
Wrede, Patricia	Dealing With Dragons
Yolen, Jane	Devil's Arithmetic

Assignment #1
Biography Report Instructions

1. Choose someone to write about. Try to pick someone that you don't already know about! Check out the following websites for ideas:

www.biography.com

www.achievement.org

www.wic.org

2. Read a biography on the person you have chosen.
3. Take notes on the attached Biography Organizer.
4. Write a rough draft using the Sample Biography as an example.
5. Write a final copy which may be typed or handwritten in pen on white lined paper.

Assignment #2

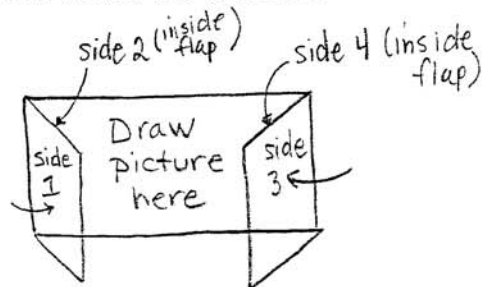
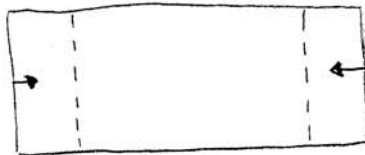
Book Jacket Instructions

1. Choose and read one of the books from the Recommended Reading List.
2. Take a sheet of white 12x18 construction paper, hold it horizontally and fold in the edges to create two flaps.
3. On the two flaps (four sides) - On each side, you should explain (in your own words) one of the following:

1. Setting -The setting is the time and place of the action. Time can include not only the historical period - past, present, or future - but also a specific year, season, or time of day. Place may involve not only the geographical place - a region, country, state or town - but also the social, economic, or cultural environment.
2. Characters- A character is a person or an animal that takes part in the action. Usually there are major and minor characters.
3. Plot - The plot is the sequence of events in the book. You should explain the main events and the main conflict that the characters face.
4. Review- On this side, explain how you feel about this book. Would you recommend it to a friend? Why or why not?

4. On the inside, draw a scene from the novel. Be creative and enjoy!

Fold in on dotted lines



Assignment # 3

Book Critique

Choose a book from the given list, or one of your own choice, at an appropriate level, and complete the following assignment.

Grades 3-6

Write a friendly letter to the author of your book telling him/her how much you enjoyed, or did not enjoy, the book.

- Be sure to use at least 3 details to **explain** your opinion.
- Use the correct 5 elements of a friendly letter. See sample.
- Refer to rubric as a checklist.

SAMPLE

1. (heading) 123 Schoolhouse Lane
Educationville, NJ 02345
July 15, 2006

Dear Mr. White, *2. (greeting)*

I have just finished reading your book, Charlotte's Web, and I must tell you that I loved every page. It made me laugh and cry, and it taught me the value of friendship.

3. (body)

I enjoyed how you used personification to make the farm animals come alive. I truly felt like Wilbur and Charlotte were my friends. I loved how Fern stood up to her dad when he wanted to kill baby Wilbur. She was brave, but still respectful.

The character of Charlotte was amazing. Her friendship and loyalty toward Wilbur can really teach a lesson. Charlotte was a selfless friend.

Well, I look forward to reading Stuart Little. Keep on writing.

Sincerely, *(closing)* 4.
Mary Smith *(signature)* 5.

Assignment # 3
Book Critique Rubric

_____ Letter is written in cursive on loose-leaf or stationary paper. (10 pts.)

_____ Letter includes all 5 elements of a friendly letter. (10 pts.)

_____ Letter includes 3 details supporting opinion. (30 pts.)

_____ Letter includes explanations of all 3 details. (30 pts.)

_____ Letter includes title of book. (10 pts.)

_____ Letter includes author's name in greeting (10 pts.)

Total points _____