

## 6th grade Summer Reading/Writing Assignment

2019-2020

Dear Incoming Sixth Graders,

Because we feel that reading is such an important part of your educational and personal development, you are responsible for reading ONE book that is IN YOUR LEXILE or AR range. **Please choose a book you have not read before** and one that is within your lexile level (found on your MAP scores) or AR level. You are responsible for getting a copy of this book from either your local library, online or a bookstore.

In September, I will ask each of you to share part of the story from your book to help us launch our year of learning through reading! You will choose ONE of the three responses to do. **Please read the directions carefully for each one before making your choice.**

This will be due **Friday, September 6, 2019**. You may turn it in on the first day of school if you get it done early! Please DO NOT share it with me as a google doc, you must print it ON YOUR OWN.

**If you need an extra reading challenge, check out the optional reading log!** If you read 10 books in your level this summer, and return your log to school on the 1st day of school, you will get a prize to kick start your 6th grade year! Remember, this is extra, so it is optional!

Enjoy your summer reading! Have a wonderful summer and I'll see you in September!

Sincerely,  
Miss Willemsen  
The Sixth Grade Language Arts Teacher

[kimberlywillemsen@easternchristian.org](mailto:kimberlywillemsen@easternchristian.org)

**\*If you are new to ECMS, and do not know your reading lexile level, please just choose a book from the provided link (see below). Can't wait to meet you!**

**Choose Your Book...but WAIT!**  
**Check to make sure it's in your level!!**

**If you need book suggestions:**

1. GO TO: <http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/6thgradereadinglist>
2. When you scroll down to the bottom of the page, notice that there are more pages of suggestions to click on!
3. Make sure mom or dad approves of your book choice! These are just suggestions, and are not all necessarily endorsed by me =).

**To check the LEVEL:**

GO TO: <http://www.arbookfind.com>

1. Type in the name of the book you are interested in.
2. Click "Go"
3. You will see the letters BL, or ATOS book level, or AR level with a number. That number indicates the AR level.

OR check out the lexile!

1. GO TO: <https://lexile.com>
2. In the upper right hand corner, type in the name of the book.
3. Click "Search"
4. You will see the lexile of that book in the green circle.

## 6th grade Summer Reading Responses

Choose one assignment: A , B, or C.

You may TYPE or HANDWRITE your responses.  
(Must be neat handwriting, no mistakes or scribbles!)

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### A. Reader's Journal (use with fiction OR nonfiction)

As a reader, you will stop to write 4 journal entries as you read the book. *In each entry, you will describe some of the main events and express your reactions and opinions.* Follow these requirements:

\_\_\_1. You should divide the book in 4 even sections from beginning to end (best to use sticky notes). When you get to the end of each section, that would be the time to STOP and write the journal entry.

\_\_\_2. You must describe the events of the section in your own words ALONG WITH your reactions.

\_\_\_3. When you discuss your reactions, you should include some of these ideas:

*\*what you are enjoying about the book \*what you don't think is believable or realistic  
\*what character is holding your attention and why \*what you dislike about a certain character  
\*what surprised you \*what confused you \* what made you laugh  
\*something you felt a connection to \*a decision that you agree with or disagree with  
\*something you think the author should do differently \*why the book is holding your attention right now  
\* a new character that has come into the story \*an interesting setting  
\*how this part of the book is making you feel \*what you predict about the plot or a character*

\_\_\_4. At the top of each entry, you must write the number of the entry and the pages or chapters it is about. For example: Entry #1 Chapters 1-3 (p. 1 – 36)

\_\_\_5. Each ENTRY should be at least a 1/2 a page long. USE COMPLETE SENTENCES.

## B. Character Journal (fiction only)

*You will become the main character of your book and create a journal from his or her point of view. You will write 4 separate journal entries. Follow these requirements:*

\_\_\_1. Write 4 detailed entries, where the character reflects on what is happening (main events) AND what he or she is thinking and feeling. USE COMPLETE SENTENCES.

\_\_\_2. Entries should focus on the most important events in the book, in order, from beginning to end. In other words, you can't write several entries from just one part of the book. Your 4 entries must follow the action through to the ending.

\_\_\_3. Include one visual (one picture → at the top or side) for each entry that relates to that part of the book. You may draw or use computer images.

\_\_\_4. Be sure to write in the first person, using "I." You will be speaking as if YOU are the character. Do not copy anything out of the book. Do not use quotations. Find your own words to express the character's thoughts.

\_\_\_5. Each ENTRY should be at least a 1/2 a page long.

### C. Book Study (use with fiction OR nonfiction)

*You will discuss (using complete sentences) the following: CHOOSE 4 of the 5 topics as they relate to your book.*

1. Setting: Name and describe 3 different places where important action takes place. Use imagery in your writing so that I can "picture" each place, and tell something important that happens there. Please number each place!

2. Protagonist: Describe the main character, the "hero" of the story (name, age, gender, personality, etc.). Give as much information as possible! THEN describe 3 different conflicts or problems he or she encounters in the book.

3. Secondary (Other) Characters or people: Name and describe 2 other important characters (use separate paragraphs for each). Discuss their role in the plot. Describe some main actions they are involved in.

4. Climax/ Resolution: Describe the turning point in the story (this will be near the end of the book) where the most suspenseful action occurs to deal with the biggest problem). Then, (use another paragraph) describe how things end up for the main character and other important characters.

5. Personal Response: Discuss your own opinions about the book. How would you rate the book on a scale of 1(lowest) – 5(highest)? What did you like about it? What didn't you like about it? What parts held your interest the most? What parts were confusing? How did you feel about the book's ending? Did you learn anything from the book? Use some examples as you give your opinions.

**\*You should have at least 1 paragraph per topic  
(unless it asks for 2 paragraphs).**

**A paragraph = 6-8 well written sentences.**

## INFORMATION FOR ALL 3 ASSIGNMENTS:

Q: Do I need a heading?

A: Please use an MLA heading on your work.

Your name

Miss Willemsen

Summer Reading

Date (6 September 2019)

Q: What else should I include?

A: You must also include the title of your book, the author's name, the lexile and/or AR level.

Q: Do I need to spell check my work and do my best?

A: Absolutely! Re-read your work to make sure it is worthy AND your best work!

Q: Do I have to type my Summer Reading Response?

A: You may type your Summer Reading Response, or handwrite it very neatly on lined paper (or in a journal that you create). When typing, use size 12 font. Double space all your work (even if you are handwriting!)

Q: Who do I e-mail if I have a question?

A: You can e-mail me anytime with a question! [kimberlywillemsen@easternchristian.org](mailto:kimberlywillemsen@easternchristian.org)

*\*You will have the opportunity (your choice) to take  
the AR test on this book in September.*

Look at the examples on the following pages for reminders of how your work should look!

## **A. Reader's Journal example** (remember you need 4!)

Name of the Book: Tunes For Bears to Dance To

Author: Robert Comier

Lexile or AR level: 5.2

### **Entry#1 Chapters 1-3, page 1-26**

So far, this book seems very sad but also interesting, and it is definitely a different type of novel from anything I've read before. The main character, Henry, has recently lost his brother in a terrible accident and his family has moved to another town to try to forget the bad memories. Henry is lonely because he doesn't have any friends here, and his parents are both depressed. His life is just totally boring at home. The interesting part is that Henry has been watching an old man come and go from what he calls the "crazy house" next door to his apartment. The man carries a black bag and does really strange things as he walks like tipping his hat and talking to himself. Henry starts following him one day to see where he's going and gets caught by this really big guy. That part surprised me and held my attention. I was glad later, because the giant was actually very nice to Henry and invited him to come back. That's when he meets Mr. Levine.

Even more captivating is another character, a very evil type, named Mr. Hairston. He's Henry's boss at the grocery store, and he is very two-faced. He insults all his customers in front of Henry before they are about to walk into the store. The setting of the grocery store I think is my favorite right now, because I'm interested in what Mr. Hairston is going to do next. He is definitely not trustworthy, and you can tell that Henry really fears him. Also, I feel bad for Doris, who is his daughter. Whenever she shows up in the store, he orders her to get back upstairs. Henry notices she has a big bruise on her face. I'm very curious to see how the author will bring Doris into the story more, and what her father will be up to.

## **B. Character Journal sample** (remember you need 4!)

Name of the Book: Tunes For Bears to Dance To

Author: Robert Comier

Lexile or AR level: 5.2

Dear Journal,

I had such a terrible day today. I don't know how I can go on working at this place. My boss, Mr. Hairston, is so mean! I was sweeping the floor of the grocery store after I filled up the potato bins, and he starts up again, mocking all his customers. When Mrs. Kaminski was walking up, he told me her husband had bad breath. Then he told me she's always sloppy. I really don't know how to react when he says bad things about people, so I just keep my head down and act busy.

My knee still hurts, but I'm trying to act like it's healed because I can't afford to miss work. My mother and father are still barely talking. How long does it take for the pain to stop after a death in the family? I still think about my brother constantly. I'm really worried about Dad. He just sits and stares. And Mom just looks so tired from working double shifts at the restaurant.

Well, today after work, I did something I wasn't planning on. I followed this old man from the crazy house. I've seen him coming and going with a black bag and I just wanted to find out where he goes. Did I ever get a surprise! I watched him go down one street and then he stopped and tipped his hat. But who did he tip his hat to? Nobody I could see (I was kind of hiding). I also heard him talking to himself in some type of strange language. Then he went up to this building that didn't have a sign up. He just went in, and I snuck around the back of the building to see if I could look in a window or something. Out came this huge giant of a guy, and he yelled at me and practically scared me to death. I went running away so fast that I think I injured my knee again. I didn't even hear what the guy was saying as I ran. I might try to follow the old man again if I get up the nerve.



### **C. Book Study sample** (remember to choose 4!)

Name of the Book: Tunes For Bears to Dance To

Author: Robert Comier

Lexile or AR level: 5.2

#### **SETTING**

1. *Mr. Hairston's store* – Henry works at a grocery store owned by Mr. Hairston, and this setting is very attention-grabbing. It is just an ordinary food store. Henry put the potatoes in bins, sweeps the floor, and other chores. The store has big windows, and Mr. Hairston can see all his customers approaching and insult them. An important event that takes place here is . . .

2. *The crafts center* – Mr. Levine creates his wooden carvings at the crafts center. It is a place run by the city where people come to do arts and crafts. George Graham works there to assist everyone and keep things in order. It's not in a very good section of the town. An important event here is when the crafts center was broken into. Everyone thinks it was done by "punks" in the area, but really Henry snuck into the storeroom when it was closing. He raised a mallet and it fell down on Mr. Levine's village.

3. *The triple-decker*– Henry and his family lived in an apartment in a three-story building called a triple-decker. It was not in a nice area of the town. It was very gloomy there because nobody talked to each other very much. Henry would go out on the balcony (called a piazza) just to get out of there. An important event here was when Henry came home one day and his father was actually dressed up and looked ready to go out. Henry was told his father had to go live at a hospital for a while.