

Entering 7th Grade (2019-2020)
Middle School Language Arts Summer Reading

Required Reading: You will read **two books** for summer reading before 7th grade. You will take an AR quiz on **each** book and write a thesis paper on **one** of the books.

1. The first book, which the entire class will read, is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.¹ You will write a 600-word thesis paper on this book. Your thesis paper will be on a prompt that I provide (see below).
2. The second book is your choice from the list below.

Book list:

Animal Farm, George Orwell
Coraline, Neil Gaiman
Chains, Laurie Halse Anderson
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon
Fever 1793, Laurie Halse Anderson
Fish in a Tree, Lynda Mullaly Hunt
Flush, Carl Hiaasen
Freak the Mighty, Rodman Philbrick
Loser, Jerry Spinelli
Love and First Sight, Josh Sundquist
Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli
Maniac Magee, Jerry Spinelli
Prince Caspian, C.S. Lewis
Space Station Seventh Grade, Jerry Spinelli
Stargirl, Jerry Spinelli
The Tequila Worm, Viola Canales
Under the Mesquite, Guadalupe Garcia McCall
The Valiant, Lesley Livingston
The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, C.S. Lewis
Walk Two Moons, Sharon Creech
The Westing Game, Ellen Raskin

¹

Do not confuse this book with *Through the Looking-Glass* by the same author!

Details:

Thesis Paper: You should choose one of the following prompts for your paper topic.

Your paper should be in paragraph format and it will be scored according to the Basic Thesis Paper Rubric (attached).

A. What are three interconnected symbols in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and in what specific way are they related? Make sure that you present evidence to support your interpretation.

B. What would you say is the primary theme in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*? Make sure that you present evidence to support your interpretation. Remember that a theme is not the same as a subject; rather, the theme is the specific position that a text takes on a subject.

You will need to submit a hard copy of your *Wonderland* thesis paper on the first day of class; please do not plan on printing your paper in the Literature classroom. You should use as a model the thesis papers that you wrote in your literature class in 6th grade.

Remember that you are not focusing on summary but instead you are writing analytically, meaning that you are discussing the deeper meaning and significance of the story. You are supporting your interpretation of the deeper meaning with evidence in the text (i.e., significant and important quotes). Internet research is not permitted.

AR: Do not take your Accelerated Reader quiz early. You are free to take notes on your book and use them on the quiz. Notes must be hand-written and are limited to one page.

Please Note: The book chosen for Summer Reading should *not* be a book that you have previously read *nor* should it be a book on which you have already taken an Accelerated Reader (AR) quiz. If you are a new student or you have already read everything on the list, please contact Mr. DiGeorgio at:

digeorgio@blessedtrinitycatholicschool.org

Recommended Practice: If you maintained an average of a C or lower in 5th grade

English, then I strongly advise you to work through this book over the summer.

M.A. Hockett's *The Language Mechanic: Tuning Up English with Logic*. The

Critical Thinking Co., 2001. \$19.99. ISBN-10: 0894557610 ISBN-13: 978-

0894557613

If you prefer to purchase a used copy, please verify that the workbook is not already complete before buying.