



Bear Valley International School

Required Language Arts Summer Project

Dear Bear Valley Scholars and Parents/Guardians,

The BVIS Language Arts team wishes you all a restful and wonderful summer break. With that being said we are so excited about the upcoming school year! In an effort to prepare for the academic year, we have provided each of our current scholars with a novel to read over the summer. In addition to reading this novel, scholars will complete an assignment that supports their understanding and knowledge of the text they choose to read.

Each student should read a minimum of one novel during the summer. However, we encourage you to read as much as possible as it will help you to be ready for your first literature unit. Studies show that if you do not read over the summer, you are likely to regress; meaning that your scores will most likely drop beginning in the fall on various reading assessments. We mean it! Scores will drop.

While working on this assignment, we encourage students to read aloud to their parents/siblings and have parents/siblings read aloud to students as well. Share thoughts, reactions, and questions to the reading with others. Literature should be discussed and shared!

Read the next two pages for information on Lexile Levels and book suggestions. Please read page #4 to see the directions, expectations, and sample images of a book review assignment. This is a required assignment. Students who complete this project and turn it in during the first week of school, will be invited to participate in our first school wide celebration! This is an opportunity for us to celebrate you all as principled and knowledgeable literary scholars! Please reach out via e-mail with questions or concerns.

Best,

The BVIS Language Arts Team

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Summer Book Suggestions

Below you will find an extensive list of books aligned to grade levels 6-8; each book also has the lexile level next to it. As mentioned above, current Bear Valley scholars selected a book that we purchased for them for the summer. However, if scholars are wanting to read more, they should use their SRI score from this year to help find a book at their level, please refer to the list below for suggestions.

Please consult the information below, to help you understand where you should be as a 6th, 7th, and 8th grader.

Average Lexile Level Bands: <https://fab.lexile.com/>

6th Grade: 800-849

7th Grade: 850-899

8th Grade: 900-999

6th Grade

- *Milkweed* - Jerry Spinelli (510)
- *The Whipping Boy* - Sid Fleischman (570L)
- *Fever 1793* - Laurie Halse Anderson (580L)
- *Murder at Midnight* - Avi (590L)
- *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* - Sherman Alexie (600L)
- *Holes* - Louis Sachar (660L)
- *Number the Stars* - Lois Lowry (670L)
- *The Skin I'm In* - Sharon G. Flake (670L)
- *Charlotte's Web* - E.B. White (680L)
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* - Wilson Rawls (700L)
- *The Devil's Arithmetic* - Jane Yolen (730L)
- *A Wrinkle in Time* - Madeleine L'Engle (740L)
- *Runaway* - Wendelin Van Draanan (740L)
- *Elephant Run* - Roland Smith (750L)
- *The Giver* - Lois Lowry (760L)
- *Tuck Everlasting* - Natalie Babbitt (770L)
- *Walk Two Moons* - Sharon Creech (770L)
- *The Conch Bearer* - Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (790L)
- *Bridge to Terabithia* - Katherine Paterson (810L)
- *The Hunger Games* - Suzanne Collins (810L)
- *Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps* - Andrea Warren (810L)
- *The Chronicles of Narnia* - C.S. Lewis (870L)

7th Grade

- *Before We Were Free* - Julia Alvarez (890L)
- *The Diary of a Young Girl* - Anne Frank (1020L)
- *Criss Cross* - Lynne Rae Perkins (820L)
- *Waiting for Normal* - Leslie Conner (570L)
- *Out of My Mind* - Sharon Draper (700L)
- *Number the Stars* - Lois Lowry (670L)
- *Stargirl* - Jerry Spinelli (590L)

- *Because of Mr. Terrupt* - Rob Buyea **(560)**
- *Waiting to Forget* - Shelia Kelly Welch **(730L)**
- *All the Broken Pieces* - Ann E. Berg **(680)**
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* - Mildred D. Taylor **(920L)**
- *Heartbeat* - Sharon Creech **(Non-Prose, No Lexile)**
- *The Book Thief* - Markus Zusak **(730L)**
- *A Monster Calls* - Patrick Ness **(730L)**
- *Among the Hidden* - Margaret Peterson Haddix **(800L)**
- *The City of Ember* - Jeanne DuPrau **(680L)**
- *Code Name Verify* - Elizabeth Wein **(820L)**
- *Okay For Now* - Gary Schmidt **(850L)**
- *Words in the Dust* - Trent Reedy **(670L)**
- *The Fourth Stall* - Chris Rylander **(760L)**
- *The Skin I'm In* - Sharon G. Flake **(670L)**

8th Grade

- *Out of Africa* - Isak Dinesen
- *This Boy's Life* - Tobias Wolff
- *The Devil's Arithmetic* - Jane Yolen
- *Bread Givers* - Anzia Yezierska
- *Arctic Thaw: Climate Change and the Global Race for Energy Resources* - Stephanie McPherson
- *The 9/11 Report: A Graphic Adaptation* - Jacobson, Sid
- *Night* - Elie Wiesel **(570L)**
- *Life of Pi* - Yann Martel **(570L)**
- *Murder on the Orient Express* - Agatha Christie **(640L)**
- *The Crossover* - Kwame Alexander **(750L)**
- *Lord of the Flies* - William Golding **(770L)**
- *Ender's Game* - Scott Orson Card **(780L)**
- *Fahrenheit 451* - Ray Bradbury **(800L)**
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* - Betty Smith **(810L)**
- *The Chocolate War* - Robert Cormier **(820L)**
- *Flowers for Algernon* - Daniel Keys **(840L)**
- *The Secret Life of Bees* - Sue Monk Kidd **(840L)**
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Unabridged)* - Mark Twain **(970L)**
- *Up From Slavery* - Booker T. Washington **(1010L)**
- *A Journey to the Center of the Earth* - Jules Vern **(1030L)**
- *After Gandhi: One Hundred Years of Nonviolent Resistance* - O'Brien, Anne Sibley **(1080L)**
- *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different* - Karen Blumenthal **(1110L)**
- *The Adventures of Don Quixote* - Miguel Cervantes **(1340L)**

Summer Book Review: Directions and Expectations

Purpose: *Your Book Review will be presented and reviewed in your SSR (Silent Sustained Reading) class in the Fall. This is an opportunity for you as a literary scholar, to share your work and knowledge with your peers. These projects will be displayed and will help other scholars to select books to read throughout the school year. Do you very best work!*

After you finish the novel, you are responsible for creating a Book Review that includes the following:

- Book Title
- Author
- Length and Lexile Level
- Main Characters
- Story Setting
 - written paragraph form*
- Story Summary
 - written paragraph form*
- List of Interesting Vocabulary
- 1-2 Major Themes/Lessons
- Describe the Major Conflict
 - Who was involved in this conflict? How was it resolved?
 - written paragraph form*
- Recommendation
 - Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?
 - written paragraph form*
- Must Include Visuals
 - They must represent key details or events from the story

Students may choose the format they would like to use to present the information above. Some options could be:

- Google Slides
- Adobe Spark
- Poster
- Flipbook (on paper)
- Video
- Diorama

