

Summer Reading ABCs and Assignments

Dear Parents of Incoming 5th Graders:

What is the best way to make summer reading effective for your child? According to a recent study by James Kim, associate professor of education at Harvard University, educators and parents need to follow the ABCs:

Access to books. It's critical that kids have access to a wide variety of books over the summer months, but we know that access alone doesn't make a strong impact.

Books that match readers' ability levels and interests. For young people's reading skills to improve, they need to read books that align with their own reading levels. Reading books that are too easy or too hard won't help!

Comprehension, as monitored and guided by an adult, teacher, or parent. The most important piece to making summer reading effective is the help of an adult who can ask questions and guide kids to better understand what they are reading."

The incoming 5th Graders are required to read two books this summer. **One book is assigned and the other is self-selected.** Your child will be required to write four different responses about each book as detailed on the next page. Each entry must be well written (neat and grammatical) and contain at least 4 sentences. The final product should be a minimum of 2 pages totaling 8 entries.

To help boost fluency and comprehension, make the reading process more interactive at home **by reading along with your child and using these strategies:** ask questions about the story and allow your child to ask questions; summarize or ask your child to summarize; reread hard-to-understand passages.

Reading Assignment:

- Required: The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo
- Read any **one fiction** book at his/her reading and interest level

The assignment directions are attached, along with the scoring rubric. The reports will be due the first day of school and will count toward the first trimester English Language Arts grade.

5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Journal Entry Prompts: For each book, **choose four** prompts and answer:

1. I can write a plot summary.
2. I can describe the main characters.
3. I can write as a character in the book describing how I feel about an event in the book.
4. I can compare characters or events in the book to people and events in my life.
5. I can describe the conflict (problem) in the book that keeps the story moving.
6. I can make a connection to another book I have read.
7. I can explain why a character chooses a certain action.
8. I can explain what this book teaches about life.

- Please write your entries on loose-leaf or type it on the computer and print it out. •
- Do not use a notebook or journal book.**
- Each book should begin a new sheet for its entries.
- Begin each entry with the prompt selected.
- **You should have a minimum of two pages ready to submit upon your return to school in the fall.**

Label each sheet with your name and the title of the book for which you are writing. Include the entry number and the entry prompt for each entry.

Alex Gator

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The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo

Journal Entry #2: I can describe the main characters.

The main characters in The Tiger Rising are...