



BISHOP FLAGET

S C H O O L

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May 31, 2023

Dear families,

This summer, we are asking our families to help us curb some of the summer learning loss with summer reading. We are hopeful that keeping our students focused on a few academic activities will help reinforce some of the learning that occurred during the school year and also keep their brains growing throughout the summer.

All middle school students will complete a summer reading project this year. The students are being asked to read one assigned novel and one novel of their choice this summer. There are accompanying assignments for each book. These assignments are due on the first day of school. Assignment packets are included in the family envelope, have been emailed to students, and are included on the school website under Summer Learning. Please encourage your student to work on this throughout the summer rather than waiting until right before school starts. We would like this to be an enjoyable experience, not a chore.

Be sure you read the instructions on the assignments carefully. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics are important and will count as part of the grade. The assignments should be typed in a google doc and shared with or emailed to aharper@bishopflaget.org. Any AI-generated responses will not be accepted and will result in a zero for the assignment.

The assigned books are as follows:

- Grade 6 - *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- Grade 7 - *The Man Who Was Poe* by Avi
- Grade 8 - *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Wheatberry Books on 2nd St. has been contacted about Bishop Flaget summer reading, and they will be carrying a small stock of the assigned novels. All of these books are available from Amazon as well. Keep in mind that a physical copy of the book will be necessary when school starts since we will be using them during the first part of the first quarter.

Thank you for your support in curbing summer learning loss and helping us help your students develop and maintain good learning habits. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Amanda E. Harper

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6th, 7th, 8th, English Language Arts

PROV 23:12

Persevere ❖ Innovate ❖ Serve

Bishop Flaget Catholic School challenges learners to persevere, innovate, and serve the community by following the model of Christ.

8th grade

Assigned novel: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Directions: During and after reading, answer the following journal questions. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics are important and will count as part of the grade. All answers must be typed in a google doc and shared with or emailed to Mrs. Harper at aharper@bishopflaget.org. (My recommendation is to make a copy of the assignment from your google drive.)

Any AI-generated responses will not be accepted and will result in a zero for the assignment.

1. How does Scout's understanding of empathy and perspective evolve throughout the novel?
2. What role does racial prejudice play in shaping the events of the trial and its outcome?
3. How does Harper Lee use symbolism to convey the theme of innocence in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?
4. What lessons can be learned from Atticus Finch's approach to parenting and his moral integrity?
5. How does the setting of Maycomb County contribute to the overall mood and tone of the novel?
6. Discuss the significance of the title, "*To Kill a Mockingbird*," and its relevance to the characters and events in the story.
7. Analyze the role of minor characters such as Calpurnia and Miss Maudie in shaping the narrative and the development of Scout and Jem.
8. How does the first-person narrative point of view enhance the reader's understanding of the events and themes in the novel?
9. Explore the concept of courage as depicted in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, considering both individual and collective acts of bravery.
10. Evaluate the impact of social and cultural norms on the characters' behavior and choices, particularly regarding gender roles and racial segregation.

6th, 7th, 8th
Book of your choice

Directions: Choose a book to read for enjoyment. It can be a novel, a graphic novel, or a nonfiction book. However, it needs to be on your reading level and should be more than 100 pages. During and after reading, answer the following journal questions. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and mechanics are important and will count as part of the grade. All answers must be typed in a google doc and shared with or emailed to Mrs. Harper at aharper@bishopflaget.org. (My recommendation is to make a copy of the assignment from your google drive.)

Any AI-generated responses will not be accepted and will result in a zero for the assignment.

Fiction Reader Response Prompts-Pick 5.

Explain your answer.

1. What was your story about? Describe the most important events as they occurred in your reading.
2. What is the theme of your story? (Examples: survival, friendship, loneliness, fear, guilt, honesty, growing up, etc.) Is there a moral?
3. What is the main problem or issue in your story?
4. Have you read books that are similar to this story? If so, explain.
5. Did something happen in your life that is similar to the events in the story?
6. Did any part of this book make you laugh or cry? Explain.
7. What is your opinion of this book? Would you recommend it to someone else? Why or why not?
8. Was this a difficult book to read? Explain.
9. At what point in the book were you "hooked"? Why?
10. Does this book give you any ideas for future writing pieces of your own?
11. Describe the setting of this section of the story. Did the author help you to visualize it? Does the setting influence the events of the story?
12. What character do you remember the most? Why?
13. If you were one of the characters in the book, would you have acted differently?
14. I wish _____ had happened...
15. I wish the author had included....
16. I was furious when...
17. I like the way the author...
18. Do any of the characters remind you of friends, family members, or classmates? Explain.
19. Do you think the title fits the book? Why or why not?
20. How would the story be different if it was told...(choose ONLY one)
 - a. from a different character's point of view?
 - b. from a narrator?
 - c. in a different time period?
21. If you were making this book into a movie, what part(s) would you cut out or change? Why?
22. Write a eulogy (a speech honoring someone after death) for one of the characters.
23. Illustrate a book cover different from what is on your book.
24. Give 3 reasons why this book should be taught to the whole class.
25. Write a note to the author of your book.
26. Discuss a portion of the book that was too predictable.
27. Write a letter to a character in your story.
28. Make a timeline of the major events (minimum 5 events) in this story.

6th, 7th, 8th
Book of your choice

Nonfiction Reader Response Prompts-Pick 5

1. Why did you choose this book? Explain.
2. Briefly explain what the book is about.
3. Tell at least three things that you have learned reading this book.
4. Did this book hold your interest? Why or why not?
5. What part of the book has been most interesting to you?
6. Were the illustrations or pictures in this book helpful in explaining the topic of the book? Explain.
7. Did the book leave you with any unanswered questions? Explain.
8. What is the author's purpose?
9. What kinds of details does the author use to support his/her claims?
10. What is the text structure of this book? (Examples: cause-effect, descriptive, compare-contrast, problem-solution, chronological) Was it effective?
11. Can you make a connection between this book and another fiction book you have read?
12. How does something that you have read connect to your life or the world around you?
13. Were there any technical words in this section that were new to you? Look them up in the dictionary and write the meaning.
14. What would another title for this book be? Why?
15. Is there anything that the author wrote that you agree or disagree with?
16. I really don't understand the part when...
17. Questions I have after reading are...
18. Something I learned from my reading...
19. I can't believe...
20. I wonder why...
21. The most important thing I learned about _____ is...
22. If I could talk to the author of this book, I would tell him/her...
23. What was the author's purpose for writing this book?
24. What are some words you don't know?