



# BISHOP FLAGET

S C H O O L

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May 20, 2022

Dear parents,

This summer, we are asking our families to help us curb some of the summer learning loss through two different initiatives. 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.

First, we are sending home “Summer Solutions” books in Math for all of our students. Your child will probably be receiving a book for the grade that they have just completed. This is to help reinforce mathematical concepts and learning from this school year as well as keep the students engaged in analytical thinking through the summer. There are 30 lessons in each book. Students are asked to complete at least one lesson per week. However, feel free to finish the book! Students should bring the books to school on August 24th.

Second, all students have the opportunity to work on IXL throughout the summer. Enclosed in the family envelope is your child’s login. The link to our Bishop Flaget portal can be found under Summer Learning on the school website and FACTS. Students can also login through Clever. Students can practice both reading and math skills in IXL. Encourage your child to practice grade level material at least 30 minutes per week. While this is not required, it is highly recommended. We will be monitoring student progress in relation to time spent on IXL this summer.

Finally, we are asking our middle school students to 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.

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!

Yours in Christ,

Laura Corcoran  
Principal

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*Persevere ❖ Innovate ❖ Serve*

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

## **Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein Summer Reading**

**Directions:** Answer the following questions or complete the activities about *Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein*. Make a copy of this document in your google docs if you'd like to type your answers out. Keep in mind that spelling, grammar, content, and writing in complete sentences is all part of the grade for this assignment. I'm looking for thoughtful, complete answers. Have fun reading, have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you at the end of August!



### Pre-Reading

1. Compare written Arabic to written English. What are some similarities? What stands out the most to you?
2. What is propaganda? How does it differ from reality?

### During Reading

1. What is the mood of the book at the very beginning? How does it change in the first few pages?
2. How does Ali feel about the leader of his country?
3. Find an example of foreshadowing on page 9.
4. On page 17, contrast the mood of the song the family sings with the situation.
5. How is your school day different from Ali's school day? What is the same?
6. Why do you think Baba has an outburst at the table on page 52?
7. Find an example of foreshadowing on page 55.
8. The mood of the book intensifies as Ali heads for home on pages 77-82. What emotions do you think Ali experiences during these events? As a reader, how do you feel going with Ali on his journey?

9. Chapter twenty-one is a very different scene. How do the characters and setting contrast from the rest of the story? Why do you think this scene was put in?
10. Find evidence of foreshadowing on pages 120-122
11. On page 138, are you surprised how Ali deals with his anger? What does English mean to him?
12. “What was it all for?” Ali wonders. “Even the Americans couldn’t get rid of Saddam” (153). What do you think of the end of the war? Does it feel like there was a resolution?
13. On page 156, what does the Iraqi proverb “You will discover your true friends in moments of crisis” mean to Ali in that moment?

### After Reading

#### Biography:

Choose a character from the book and answer the following questions.

1. Who is this person?
2. When was this person born?
3. Is this person alive? How old is he/she?
4. Why is this person interesting?
5. What mistakes did this person make?
6. What positive things did this person do?
7. What lesson can I learn from his/her life?

**Book of your choice** - 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. Choose five of the prompts from the type of literature that you chose (fiction or non-fiction) to complete this assignment.

### **Fiction Reader Response Prompts.**

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.

## Nonfiction Reader Response Prompts

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?