



The Sacred Heart School of Glyndon

June, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Middle School Students,

The excitement of the summer season is upon us! Although we may view the upcoming months with some uncertainty, we also look forward to the wonderful experiences and fun family adventures that they are sure to bring. However, we must also keep in mind the importance of continued skill-building and reinforcement, so that the progress gained this year is retained in the weeks spent away from the structured learning environment. Leading educational research indicates that advancement in academic achievement is clearly related to the amount of consistent practice a student dedicates to a specific skill, in order to sustain and improve it. With that in mind, the language arts teachers have created a summer program designed to enhance and maintain the reading and grammar aptitude students gained throughout this current school year, while preparing them for the new areas of focus they will encounter as the next academic year begins.

All middle school students are asked to complete two components of summer work for language arts. First, in continuation of our traditional summer reading requirements, we are providing a list of four book titles for grades six through eight. From this list, students must select **two novels** that they would like to read (we recommend looking up summaries of the books prior to selection). When they have finished reading each book, all students must complete a short multiple choice quiz about what they have read. The reading list and quizzes that coincide with your child's grade level are included in this packet. On their first day of language arts class for the 2020-2021 school year, students must hand in the quizzes that correspond with the novels they selected from the list, (pre-printed and completed prior to the start of the school year) which will be graded. Please be aware that these quizzes will be considered a reading comprehension grade, which is the language arts assessment category weighted the most heavily in middle school. Therefore, completion of this assignment will be a vital component to starting the year off strongly in language arts. *Please note: if the 2020-2021 school year begins via remote learning, students will be given information from their language arts teacher for how to submit these quizzes electronically.

In an effort to help students improve and further their essential skills for the study of English language arts, we are again implementing the use of the familiar IXL program that has been used in both ELA and math classes throughout the year. For the sake of consistency, we are aligning the summer work requirements for language arts with those of math. Students must spend a total of **ten** hours on IXL, dedicated primarily to grammar practice, throughout the summer break. These hours must occur sometime between June 15 and September 1, 2020, and will be tracked by the language arts department, to ensure the guidelines are met. In order to benefit most fully from this practice, we strongly recommend that students spread their ten hours out throughout the summer, rather than attempt to fulfill this requirement in a shorter time frame (for example, spending just 15 minutes a day practicing a skill would allow a student to complete the IXL requirement with ease, while also keeping the content fresh and consistently relevant). Of course, students may spend as much additional time on IXL as they wish, once the ten hour mark has been reached. Student progress will be reviewed by the teachers, and all students who fulfill the practice



The Sacred Heart School of Glyndon

requirements listed above will receive a score of 10/10 on this part of their summer work. We have included the IXL link, sign-in information, and recommended topic review list for language arts as an attachment to this letter. As the topics we have outlined include an emphasis on the most basic skills, along with some more advanced practice, we ask that students spend a clear majority of their ten hour requirement in the areas we have listed for their grade. Otherwise, we cannot conclude that their ten hours have been spent improving their skill on the appropriate level, or award full credit for completion.

We appreciate your support and continued involvement in your child's education. Please check in with your child regularly, to ensure that all the requirements of summer work in language arts are being completed correctly. That way, we can all enjoy a strong start to the next school year, well-prepared, and ready to progress to the next level.

We wish you a summer filled with blessings, priceless moments, and happy days. We look forward to working with you again as we begin the next school year!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Middle School Language Arts Teachers



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Incoming Seventh Grade Language Arts Summer Work:

**(BOTH COMPONENT ONE AND COMPONENT TWO ARE
REQUIRED, GRADED ASSIGNMENTS):**

Component One: Novel List

(Please choose TWO from this list to read, and complete the corresponding multiple choice quizzes that are enclosed in this packet)

- *The House of Dies Drear*, by Virginia Hamilton
- *Gathering Blue*, by Lois Lowry
- *My Brother Sam is Dead*, by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
- *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, by Avi

Component Two: IXL Grammar Skill Practice Requirements

Be aware: if you do not use the portal and your personal sign-in information, your time will not be recorded, and credit cannot be awarded!

IXL Web Address: <https://www.ixl.com/signin/shschool>

Student Sign-In Information:

Your user name is the first initial of your first name, followed by your last name, all in lower-case letters. For example, John Smith would sign in with the user name of jsmith. The password for all students is shg (all lowercase). This is the same sign-in information that you will use for math.

(Remember, all students must spend at least TEN hours practicing skills in the following topics. Full credit will be awarded to students who spend their time practicing skills in several different categories, spreading the required time out across the various skill sets, rather than logging in several hours on just one or two skills sets).

(skill list is given on following page)



The Sacred Heart School of Glyndon

Skills listed under the **sixth** grade tab, in the following categories, for reinforcement of basic skills:

Writing Strategies:

- Creative Techniques: Create Varied Sentences Based on Models

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Sentences, Fragments, and Run-Ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Verb Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Prepositions (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives/Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Punctuation (all skills listed in this section)
- Capitalization (all skills listed in this section)
- Formatting (all skills listed in this section)

The following skills found under the **seventh** grade tab, to prepare for seventh-grade-level work:

Reading Strategies:

- Main Idea: Determine the Main Idea
- Theme: Determine the themes of short stories
- Analyzing Informational Texts: Read and Understand Informational Passages

Writing Strategies:

- Organizing Writing: Organize Information by Main Idea
- Organizing Writing: Transitions with Conjunctive Adverbs

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Sentences, Fragments, and Run-ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Verb Types (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives and Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Commas (all skills listed in this section)
- Semi-colons, Colons, and Commas (all skills listed in this section)
- Capitalization (all skills listed in this section)
- Formatting ((all skills listed in this section)



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

The House of Dies Drear

1. **The Small family moves to**
 - A. Oklahoma
 - B. Ohio
 - C. Idaho
 - D. Illinois
2. **Dies Drear**
 - A. used to own the house
 - B. is the caretaker of the house
 - C. burned the house down
 - D. is the name of the town
3. **Thomas' father is a professor of**
 - A. English
 - B. mathematics
 - C. history
 - D. physics
4. **What metal shape is put on the family's doors at night?**
 - A. triangle
 - B. square
 - C. circle
 - D. rectangle
5. **The Smalls find out that Pluto and Mr. Darrow**
 - A. were brothers
 - B. did not get along
 - C. were good friends
 - D. were runaway slaves
6. **The house was once used as**
 - A. a railroad station
 - B. a library
 - C. a slave house
 - D. a stop for the Underground Railroad.
7. **The metal shapes were originally used**
 - A. as musical instruments
 - B. to tell slaves which direction to go when trying to escape
 - C. as signals to tell when it was dinner time
 - D. as part of a religious ceremony
8. **Pluto is related to**
 - A. Dies Drear
 - B. The Small family
 - C. the third slave who was not killed
 - D. a slave of the Drear family
9. **Pluto is guarding Dies Drear's**
 - A. treasure
 - B. family
 - C. mansion
 - D. artwork
10. **Mr. Small promises**
 - A. to destroy the house
 - B. to leave the state
 - C. not to reveal the secret of the treasure
 - D. to make friends with the Darrow family



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

Gathering Blue

1. **How are people's names changed as they Age?**
 - A. Infants have "A's" at the end of their names
 - B. The number of syllables in a name increases as the person ages
 - C. Their names reflect the occupation they are given
 - D. After their parents have died, the children take the parents' name as a symbol of adulthood
2. **How do the people learn about their history and the events of the Ruin?**
 - A. Through stories told each night in the village
 - B. Through books distributed by the Council of Guardians
 - C. Through the Singer's Song, sung once a year
 - D. Through the reciting of a memorized poem each week
3. **What was Kira's father's job?**
 - A. Wood carver
 - B. Weaver
 - C. Singer
 - D. Hunter
4. **What feature of her new home does Kira find the most confusing at first?**
 - A. Indoor water
 - B. Indoor heating
 - C. A real bed
 - D. The use of eating utensils
5. **Kira learns that the colors for the threads to be used in the robe come from**
 - A. Powdered crystals
 - B. Plants
 - C. Ground clay, soil, and rock
 - D. Fabric paint
6. **On her trip back from her family's ruined cott, when she goes to collect what is left of her mother's plants, Kira encounters**
 - A. Annabella
 - B. Vandara
 - C. Jamison
 - D. Thomas
7. **What is the "small giftie" Matt brings to Kira during the Gathering?**
 - A. Blue
 - B. New threads
 - C. Christopher
 - D. Soap
8. **What was Thomas' job?**
 - A. To help Kira make dyes
 - B. To carve the Singer's staff
 - C. To teach Kira to read
 - D. To train to be the next Singer
9. **After hearing Christopher's story, Kira discovers that _____ is the one who tried to kill him.**
 - A. Matt
 - B. Thomas
 - C. Jamison
 - D. Vandara.
10. **Matt tells Kira that the boy he thinks she could marry, once she gets to the other community**
 - A. Has a twisted leg, like hers
 - B. Has amazing blue eyes
 - C. Is Thomas
 - D. Is also a weaver



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

My Brother Sam is Dead

1. **What is the setting of this novel?**
 - A. Maryland, during the War of 1812
 - B. Connecticut, during the Revolutionary War
 - C. New York, during the Civil War
 - D. Massachusetts, during the American Revolution
2. **How old is Sam when the story begins?**
 - A. Twenty-one
 - B. Nineteen
 - C. Eighteen
 - D. Sixteen
3. **Who is a captain in Sam's first military company?**
 - A. George Washington
 - B. Benedict Arnold
 - C. Thomas Jefferson
 - D. Patrick Henry
4. **Who wants Tim to deliver a letter to Fairfield?**
 - A. Betsy Read
 - B. Mr. Beach
 - C. Colonel Read
 - D. Mr. Heron
5. **Why do Mr. Meeker and Tim go to Verplancks Point?**
 - A. To join the Continental Army
 - B. To join the Lobsterbacks
 - C. To sell cattle
 - D. To see relatives
6. **What boy is captured by the British in April of 1777?**
 - A. Tom Warrups
 - B. Sam Meeker
 - C. Tim Meeker
 - D. Jerry Sanford
7. **What is the ultimate fate of Mr. Meeker?**
 - A. He returns home
 - B. He dies on a British prison ship
 - C. He dies on a Rebel prison ship
 - D. He is killed during a cattle stampede
8. **Why does Sam return to Redding in December of 1778?**
 - A. To work at the tavern
 - B. To spy for the Patriots
 - C. Regimental encampment
 - D. His enlistment is over
9. **Why is Sam court-martialed?**
 - A. He is accused of being a cattle thief
 - B. He is accused of being a deserter
 - C. He is accused of being a traitor
 - D. He is accused of being a spy
10. **What is the ultimate fate of Mrs. Meeker and Tim?**
 - A. They are imprisoned by the Patriots
 - B. They are imprisoned by the British
 - C. They move to Pennsylvania
 - D. They stay in their original home



Name _____ Date _____

7th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

1. **Where is the key to Captain Jaggery's safe kept?**
 - A. Inside his silver teapot
 - B. Under the Captain's mattress
 - C. At the back of his Bible
 - D. Behind his daughter's portrait
2. **Which three characters spent time in or near the ship's hold?**
 - A. Barlow, Keetch, and Jaggery
 - B. Charlotte, Hollybrass, and Zachariah
 - C. Cranick, Keetch, and Fisk
 - D. Cranick, Zachariah, and Charlotte
3. **Who owns the Seahawk?**
 - A. Charlotte's uncle
 - B. Captain Jaggery
 - C. Charlotte's father
 - D. Charlotte's grandfather
4. **Why has Charlotte been in England when the novel begins?**
 - A. She's been attending school
 - B. She's been visiting grandparents
 - C. She's been in a hospital
 - D. She's been visiting friends
5. **What was the purpose for crewmembers that resigned on the Seahawk's voyage to Providence?**
 - A. To see America
 - B. To get revenge
 - C. To earn high wages
 - D. To escape going to jail in England
6. **How did Charlotte prove her worthiness as a sailor?**
 - A. She fetched Ewing a needle
 - B. She cut her hair and wore clothes like the others
 - C. She prepared hardtack for the entire crew
 - D. She climbed to the top of the royal yard
7. **What is the major difference between Part I and Part II of the novel?**
 - A. Part I is before the hurricane, Part II is after
 - B. Mr. Cranick is no longer on board
 - C. Captain Jaggery, the tyrant leader, becomes Jaggery, the caring Captain
 - D. Miss Doyle, the passenger, becomes Charlotte, the sailor
8. **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle takes place in what year?**
 - A. 1880
 - B. 1609
 - C. 1750
 - D. 1832
9. **What is the novel's main conflict?**
 - A. Arriving in Providence before winter sets in
 - B. Overcoming the injustice of Captain Jaggery
 - C. Recovering from seasickness
 - D. Surviving a hurricane at sea
10. **What does Zachariah give Charlotte for protecting herself?**
 - A. A pistol
 - B. A dog
 - C. A dirk
 - D. A musket