



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



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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 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 Sixth 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):**

- *A Single Shard*, by Linda Sue Park
- *Call it Courage*, by Armstrong Sperry
- *The Golden Goblet*, by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
- *Tuck Everlasting*, by Natalie Babbitt

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. The expectation for full credit to be awarded is that students will 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)



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The following skills are listed under the **fifth** grade tab, in the following categories, for reinforcement of basic concepts:

Writing Strategies:

- Organizing Writing: Choose the Best Transition
- Organizing Writing: Organize Information by Main Idea

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 and 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 are found under the **sixth** grade tab, to prepare for sixth-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

Vocabulary:

- Context Clues: Find Words Using Context
- Context Clues: Determine the Meaning of Words Using Synonyms in Context
- Context Clues: Use Context to Identify the Meaning of a Word

Grammar and Mechanics:

- Sentences, fragments, and run-ons (all skills listed in this section)
- Nouns (all skills listed in this section)
- Pronoun types (all skills listed in this section)
- Verb types (all skills listed in this section)
- Adjectives and Adverbs (all skills listed in this section)
- Prepositions (all skills listed in this section)
- Conjunctions (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)



Name _____ Date _____

6th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

A Single Shard

1. **Where and when does this novel take place?**
 - A. Tenth-century China
 - B. Twelfth-century Korea
 - C. Twelfth-century China
 - D. Tenth-century Korea
2. **Tree-ear offers to work for Min**
 - A. so he can learn how to make a clay Duck
 - B. because Min is very old and needs Help
 - C. because he wants to repay Min after he broke the potter's work
 - D. because he knows Min will pay him a lot of money
3. **The first task Min gives Tree-ear is**
 - A. to bring back a load of clay
 - B. to help throw clay
 - C. to deliver a message
 - D. to chop wood
4. **Which animals are believed to have "evil magic?"**
 - A. foxes
 - B. bears
 - C. cats
 - D. wolves
5. **Tree Ear's name means**
 - A. "Branch of a Tree"
 - B. "Leaves of a Tree"
 - C. "Mushroom"
 - D. "Root"
6. **Crane-man was given his name because**
 - A. his cane is shaped like a crane
 - B. his disability forced him to only walk on one leg
 - C. his nose resembled a crane's beak
 - D. this is the name he was born with
7. **Tree-ear loses the vases when**
 - A. he is robbed
 - B. he falls down the cliff
 - C. the jiggeh breaks
 - D. he throws them off the cliff
8. **What does Kang do that makes his pottery so remarkable?**
 - A. he makes cups and no one else has ever tried this
 - B. he charges much more than Min
 - C. he puts beautiful designs in his work like no one has ever seen before
 - D. his vases are the largest anyone has seen
9. **When Tree-ear presents the single shard, the emissary tells him**
 - A. he will give Min a commission
 - B. one shard is not enough to judge Min's work
 - C. the work is not as good as Kang's
 - D. he is insulted that Tree-ear asked to see him and had nothing to show him
10. **Hyung-pil is**
 - A. the name of Min's son who died
 - B. what Tree-ear calls Min's wife
 - C. what Tree-ear calls Crane-man after his death
 - D. the name Tree-ear is given when he becomes part of a family



Name _____ Date _____

6th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

Call It Courage

1. **What does the name “Mafatu” mean?**
 - A. Stout Heart
 - B. Weak One
 - C. The Boy Who Was Afraid
 - D. Great Chief
2. **Mafatu’s only companion**
 - A. Moana, his stepmother
 - B. His father
 - C. Kivi an albatross and Uri, a dog
 - D. Chief Nui
3. **How did the canoe hold up in the raging sea?**
 - A. The canoe broke completely into two pieces
 - B. It splintered in the storm and the sea crept into it
 - C. It received no damage in the storm
 - D. The sails split and the mast broke off
4. **As soon as Mafatu reached land, he**
 - A. wanted a drink
 - B. wanted to run
 - C. passed out
 - D. had dinner
5. **What was in the middle of the island?**
 - A. a waterfall
 - B. a volcano
 - C. a village
 - D. a huge rock
6. **What was Mafatu’s first sign that someone had been on the island?**
 - A. He spotted footprints on the beach
 - B. The bananas had been cut by a knife
 - C. He saw human bones
 - D. He saw a cup and a bowl that was carved from wood
7. **Who was in charge of keeping firewood in Hikueru?**
 - A. The mother
 - B. The youngest boys
 - C. The youngest family members
 - D. The father
8. **When he dove into the sea to retrieve his knife, Mafatu was attacked by**
 - A. an octopus
 - B. a jellyfish
 - C. a shark
 - D. a stingray
9. **How many warriors were after Mafatu?**
 - A. Six
 - B. Ten
 - C. Sixty
 - D. Fifty
10. **How did the Great Chief respond to Mafatu's return?**
 - A. He was proud of his son.
 - B. He called Mafatu a brave boy.
 - C. He was joyful.
 - D. All the above



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6th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

The Golden Goblet

1. **Who is Lotus?**
 - A. Ranofer's mother
 - B. A donkey
 - C. Gebu's friend
 - D. The queen of Egypt
2. **The best way to define a "kheft" is**
 - A. A member of the royal family
 - B. A dead body
 - C. A spirit
 - D. An Egyptian god
3. **What does Ranofer realize about the Goblet?**
 - A. It is over 100 years old and must have been stolen from a king's tomb
 - B. Gebu had to have stolen it from Zau
 - C. It was stolen from the tomb of Thutra
 - D. It was made for him by his father
4. **What does Ibni give Ranofer to take to Gebu?**
 - A. Gold
 - B. Wineskins
 - C. Papyrus
 - D. Tools
5. **What does Rekh discover is missing from his shop?**
 - A. A goblet
 - B. Coppers
 - C. Wineskins
 - D. Gold
6. **Who is an apprentice goldsmith?**
 - A. Ranofer
 - B. Ibni
 - C. Kai
 - D. Heqet
7. **What does the festival celebrate?**
 - A. The flooding of the Nile
 - B. A good harvest
 - C. The king and Queen's rule
 - D. Those who have gone to the City of the Dead
8. **Whose tomb does Ranofer witness Gebu robbing?**
 - A. Huaa and Tuaa
 - B. Their father's
 - C. Thutmose the Conqueror
 - D. Queen Tiy
9. **What was against the north wall of the burial chamber?**
 - A. a rock pile
 - B. an oaken staff
 - C. the coffins
 - D. a crevice
10. **Who does Ranofer see robbing the tomb with Gebu?**
 - A. Ibni
 - B. Wenamon
 - C. Setma
 - D. Qa-nefer



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6th Grade LA—Summer Reading Quiz: Circle the answer of the best choice for each question.

Tuck Everlasting

1. **This novel takes place in**
 - A. Treeground
 - B. Treegap
 - C. Tuckerville
 - D. The novel never gives a location
2. **Which character almost never smiles, except when sleeping?**
 - A. Mae
 - B. Jesse
 - C. Miles
 - D. Angus
3. **In the first scene featuring Winnie, she is talking to**
 - A. Jesse
 - B. Mae
 - C. A toad
 - D. Her mother
4. **After drinking from the spring, as time went on, the Tucks realized that**
 - A. A snake bite had a stronger effect on them than others
 - B. Their horse had been shot and killed
 - C. The neighbors had also drunk the spring water
 - D. They could neither be hurt or killed, and didn't age
5. **The Tuck family drank from the spring**
 - A. 87 years ago
 - B. 78 years ago
 - C. 187 years ago
 - D. 178 years ago
6. **Which character takes the Tucks' horse?**
 - A. Winnie
 - B. Mr. Foster
 - C. The man in the yellow suit
 - D. Miles' wife, Anna
7. **Mae hits the man in the yellow suit because**
 - A. He plans to kill Jesse and Miles
 - B. He wants to take Winnie from the Tucks and make her drink the spring water
 - C. He tries to steal her music box
 - D. He was planning to destroy the spring so no one else could drink from it
8. **Who takes Mae's place in the jail cell?**
 - A. Winnie
 - B. Angus
 - C. Miles
 - D. Jesse
9. **Winnie is told to drink the spring water**
 - A. At age eighteen
 - B. When Jesse tells her it's time
 - C. At age seventeen
 - D. She was never meant to drink it; it was meant for the toad.
10. **The Tucks return to town _____ years after Mae escapes from jail.**
 - A. Forty
 - B. Seventy
 - C. Thirty
 - D. Three