

**SUMMER READING FOR FIFTH-GRADE SCHOLARS**  
or  
**THE GREAT CURIOSITY QUEST**



Dear Fifth-Grade Scholars,

You have worked hard during the school year and should enjoy family and friends during the summer. You should also remember to keep your brain active and be looking for new and exciting things in the world around you. Reading and writing are the most important skills, however, you will find a few other surprises in these activities. You should set aside time each week to complete these assignments. Please do your best work and ask an adult to contact me at [sdesjarlais@academyhill.org](mailto:sdesjarlais@academyhill.org) if you have any questions. Have fun and good luck on your quest!

All books you choose should be on a *just-right* level for you, and they should be books you have not read. Try using the five-finger rule to determine if a book is right for you or not (Pick a page in the book, and read it. Keep track of any words you don't know. If you reach five on that page, the book is likely too difficult right now.) If you're looking for a book, check the Newbery Award winners or the American Library Association (ALA) for suggestions of award winners. Here are some links to help get you started:

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/award-winners-childrens/?page=1>  
<https://www.bookwormomaha.com/newbery-medal-winners-1922-present>

**Curious World Activities & Extraordinary Brain-Busters**

**Goal: 8-10 Box Activities**

1. Review the attached chart.
2. Throughout the summer pick different boxes to complete and mark them done.
3. Ask an adult to sign when you have completed all of your activities.
4. Keep all of your work, including any Curious World Activities and the signed list, in a folder to turn in when school starts. Your project may also go in the folder if it fits.

Choose two books to read this summer. One is a free choice book, and one must be an award-winning book, an honor book, or a book by an award-winning author.

**Reading & Writing**

Which book did you like better? Write a paragraph about which book you preferred and why. Remember to include a hook, topic sentence, supporting details, examples from the book, and your honest opinion!

**Project**

For the other book, complete one (1) project from the list during the summer.

**CURIOUS WORLD ACTIVITIES AND EXTRAORDINARY BRAIN-BUSTERS  
GUARANTEED TO BRING FUN AND JOY TO YOUR SUMMER**

Track how much time you spent reading this week.	Look at the sky, notice a cloud, and write a poem about that cloud. Draw a picture of the cloud to accompany your poem.	Draw a new cover for a book you are reading, using your <u>opposite</u> hand.	Imagine you are a summer reading book. Write about the type of person you hope will choose you.	With another reader in your house, each take turns reading a few sentences or paragraphs aloud from one of your books.
When you take a ride in a car, imagine you live in a place you see out the window. Write a paragraph about that place.	Play Summer Good Morning Show, tell your family about a popular series author or an author you admire.	Finish this science question; try for several sentences. "Ms. Desjarlais, I wonder why..."	Read a book aloud to another human being (or a pet) in the funniest voice or voices you can. Stop only when you can't speak.	Almost every book has a <i>genre</i> . Choose a summer reading book other than the two for summer reading, and explain its genre.
If you see a historic marker or visit a historic place, write about why it is important.	Your new classroom wonders what you'll be like. Write a friendly letter to your new room.	Think about your book and find a piece of music or song that fits your book. Write down the song and artist and why you chose that work.	Try a new food and write about what a wonderful and exciting and delicious experience it was. Or not.	Thunderstorms happen in the summer. Explain what atmospheric conditions lead to storms.
July 11 is Blueberry Muffin Day. With an adult's help, bake a batch of blueberry muffins for your family. Write a paragraph about the experience.	Interview an older sibling, friend, or adult about a book he or she may be reading. Write what you learned.	Write me a letter. How was your summer? What are you hoping happens this year? What are your goals? Mail it to me at school.	Create a difficult word problem and solve it. Try to include a boat, a candy bar, and your toes. Show your work. Include a bar model!	Look at the labels in your clothes. Where were they made? Make a chart or graph for your data set. Check at least ten articles of clothing.

<p>Go to the library to choose a book. Look at the book on the left and the right. In sentences, explain what they have in common with your book and why they are in order.</p>	<p>A <i>prequel</i> is a story that comes before a current work. For one of your summer reading books, write a summary of its prequel.</p>	<p>Would one of your summer reading books make a good movie? In a good paragraph, explain why or why not.</p>	<p>Make a simple book for a Kindergarten student about your favorite part of summer.</p>	<p>Measure one of your summer reading books in inches and centimeters. Can you find the area? What is the smallest and largest book you own or have?</p>
<p>Find a recipe and double that recipe. Show your work.</p>	<p>Complete a puzzle that has at least 500 pieces. This one may take you more than a week. Put down the date you start and the date you finish. Take a picture of you with your finished creation.</p>	<p>With a partner, roll two dice. Whoever multiplies the two numbers rolled and gets the correct answer first wins a point. Play to 20 points.</p>	<p>Find two books you have read and in a paragraph explain how they might go together in a crossover book.</p>	<p>Make an artwork from items you find in nature.</p>
<p>Look at some food containers you may have in the house. Are they recyclable? How do you know? Were you surprised by what you learned?</p>	<p>Finish four pages (one side counts as a page) from either of your math workbooks that you didn't do during the year. Choose pages from different sections.</p>	<p>On a rainy day (make sure there's no thunder!), put your swimsuit on (or just go out in your regular clothes - ask your parents first!) and go outside to play in the rain. Write a paragraph about how it felt. Did you enjoy the experience? Why or why not?</p>	<p>Make an acrostic poem using the main character in one of your books.</p>	<p>Watch a meteor shower. The Perseids begin July 14 but should peak August 12-13. The Capricornids begin July 7 and peak July 31, but they have few meteors compared to the Perseids.  <a href="https://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/">https://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/</a></p>

Write a short story about school in the year 2525.	In a car, notice the exact time you started and stopped driving and what the <i>odometer</i> said. When you arrive, find the average speed. Show your work.	Based on your summer reading book, is there a place you would like to go on a field trip? Make a postcard about that place.	Some other students, not you, say they are bored in the summer. Make a poster for a campaign to stop summer boredom!	Talk to an adult about a current event they would like to share with you. What did you learn?
No, thank you. Choose one activity you did <u>not</u> do and write a paragraph about why you did not choose it.	Watch television if you are allowed to do so. How long do you have to watch before you see a book or someone reading? What were you watching?	If you play an instrument, tell me the type of instrument and explain how you clean, care for and tune it.	Our family dog, Chappie, stands about 12 inches high. Get on all fours and move around wherever you are. Write a story about what you see.	Find the zip code for an address that is important to you. Do interesting math problems with those numbers OR research how zip codes work and write a paragraph about your findings.
Visit an artist, art museum or craft person. In a paragraph tell me what he, she, or they do.	Grab a lined piece of paper and a pencil, and sit outside by yourself. Sit quietly for a while. Then, make a list of all of the sounds you hear. Write about the one that surprised you the most.	Growing 5th graders need sleep. Make a chart of how many hours you slept each night during one week.	Design a band-aid based on your summer reading book. Draw and color your design.	Read outside in your favorite spot (remember to use sunscreen!). Have someone take a picture of you reading. Print out the picture and include it in your summer work when you get back to school.
Ask an adult for permission and write a letter to a friend from AHS and send it in the mail.	Read a food label. What do you notice? Explain what is on that label.	Write a review of a summer reading book by creating a short list using only adjectives.	Summer power outages do happen. In a paragraph, explain what you will miss when the lights go out.	Tell me how your town or street was named or what your name means.

## Project Choices

1. **Diorama** -Create a diorama or model from a scene in your book. Be sure to include a background, scenery, and details. *Hint: Measurements are important. Be sure items are the right size compared to other items.*
2. **My Summer Reading Book as a Bookshelf:** Draw a bookshelf with books and titles explaining and summarizing the main events in your book. Work from left to right and try to use color. Please also write an explanatory sentence explaining why you chose each of the titles. *Hint: Use landscape (horizontal) paper and several pages.*
3. **Create A Calendar:** Using your summer reading book, create a calendar with illustrations you draw or find. Your calendar runs from June, 2024 to June, 2025. Mark any special dates mentioned in your book. Please also write a few sentences explaining what is being illustrated each month or explain the important date. *Hint: Try to draw scenes or events that match the seasons.*
4. **Museum In Progress Display:** Pick five (5) items that represent key events, ideas, or people in your book. For each item, make a model, drawing, or representation of the item. Each item must be accompanied by several lines of writing explaining the item. *Hint: Look for important objects that tell a story when combined.*
5. **Let's Eat:** Make a food from your book or research foods related to your book. Be sure to write the recipe and explain in a paragraph how it relates to your story. Have someone take a picture of you eating your meal, and include the picture with your project. *Hint: Be sure that you have adult supervision and be careful of allergens.*
6. **Turning Point Challenge:** Most fiction and many nonfiction works build up to an exciting or dramatic moment. Research the following terms: exposition, rising action, climax, and resolution. Draw a diagram with each part labeled along with the event from your book that matches that part of the diagram. Write a paragraph that explains each term and how each example from your book fits on the diagram. *Hint: Support each paragraph with an example.*
7. **Theme Park:** Imagine your book has come to life as an amusement park (Disney, Universal) or fair (Big E). Design and draw amusement park rides that showcase the events or characters in your book. Each ride should be accompanied by a short paragraph explaining how the ride depicts an event from your book. *Hint: Be detailed and relate to your story.*

8. **Title Battle:** In most fiction and nonfiction works, each chapter or section has a title. In your summer reading books, find five (5) titles and explain why they do or do not work. If they do not work, suggest an alternate title. Be sure to support your reasons with good examples. *Hint: Use quotes as evidence.*
9. **Critical Reader (Nonfiction):** Nonfiction works follow a specific method of writing. In most cases, there is an introductory paragraph, followed by supporting paragraphs. Within each paragraph, there is a topic sentence, evidence, and a conclusion. Find five (5) passages that show this pattern at work and explain how the author uses this pattern. *Hint: An outline would be a useful tool.*
10. **Eye for Detail (Fiction):** Most good fiction writers enhance their writing by using a variety of literary devices to help draw the reader into the story. Find five good examples of supporting details, use of the senses, or other examples that draw you into the story. For each example, quote the example (with page number) and explain what is being done. *Hint: Look for examples that use emotions.*
11. **Design Your Own Project:** Propose your own project and ask an adult to help you email your teacher for approval.