



The Atonement Academy

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment 2017

Summer reading encourages independent reading outside of school, provides students with a shared experience that can serve as a reference point for discussion and writing in the coming school year, and reinforces The Atonement Academy's mission to instruct students in the Western tradition.

Instructions for Grades 6th through 8th

Examine the list for the student's new grade level. (For example, a student who will be attending 6th grade in August should read the book on the 6th grade list.) To help facilitate a more personal engagement with the material, the summer reading assignment for middle scholars is a dialectical journal. What is a dialectical journal?

Dialectical, n. : the art or practice of arriving at the truth through logical arguments.
Journal, n. : a personal record of events, experiences, and reflections kept on a regular basis; a diary.

A dialectical journal is another name for a double-entry journal or a reader-response journal. A dialectical journal is a journal that records a dialogue, or conversation, between the ideas in the text and the ideas of the reader. This is what your child must do in his dialectical journal - keep a dialogue with him or herself. In the journal, your child will have a conversation with the text and his or her own ideas and reactions to the text. The assignment is for the student to write down his or her thoughts, questions, insights, and ideas while he or she reads. The student will reference the text within his or her journal, using page numbers for reference.

Assessment and Enforcement

Ensuring that students complete the summer reading as assigned is the parents' responsibility. Our teachers discuss these books during the first week of school, which is why they are noted as "required" on the list. **The dialectical journal is due August 15th.**

Accelerated Reader Points

Students *will not* be able to earn Accelerated Reader points for their summer reading. No AR points are required for the summer, and no tests will be administered during the summer. Other books read during the summer can be used for the first quarter AR points.

Grade 6

The Wind in the Willows - Kenneth Grahame
Fifteen (15) responses required, with at least 1 response per chapter.

Grade 7

The Hobbit – J. R. R. Tolkien
Nineteen (19) responses required, 1 response per chapter.

Grade 8

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
Twenty (20) responses required, at least one per every ten pages.

Your journal will use a two-entry form:

- Fold the page in half.
- In the LEFT COLUMN, write down the text, idea, quote, or event you find interesting or important, citing the page number.
- In the RIGHT COLUMN, write down YOUR OWN thoughts, commentary, and questions about the information in the LEFT COLUMN, using the questions and analysis above in your response.