



## Nazarene Christian Academy Middle School Summer Reading Program

*Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)*

*Today a reader, tomorrow a leader. (W Fusselman)*

*There is no substitute for books in the life of a child. (Mary Ellen Chase)*

*A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse, a party, a company by the way, a counselor, and a multitude of counselors.  
(Henry Ward Beecher)*

Choose **one** book from the attached list that you **HAVE NOT** read.

### Important Things to Note:

1. Begin your reading as soon as possible. The longer you wait, the more overwhelming it gets.
2. The ultimate goal of reading in the summer is to get you to enjoy the written word.
3. The assignment is due on the first day of the school year. You must submit a book report in order to get full credit.
4. You may type the assignment if you wish using Times New Roman font only.
5. Included are informative tips on how to improve vocabulary and writing skills, and the reading process.
6. You are required to do a report on the book you chose. There are 3 Book Report Styles you can choose from. You are required to use one of the three styles, and they are included in the packet.

### GRADING

This project is due on the first day of school.

This project should be 1-2 pages to 200-300 words, double spaced, 14pt font: Times New Romans.

The final grade will count as a test grade.

The attached rubric will be used to grade your project.

### Writing a Book Report

Book reports can take on many different forms. Three types of effective book reports are plot summaries, character analyses, and theme analysis. Please choose **ONE** report form to create your project. Writing a book report helps you practice giving your opinion about different aspects of a book, such as the author's use of description or dialogue.

No matter what type of book report you decide to write, however, there are a few basic elements you need to include in order to convey why the book you read was interesting. Always include the following elements in any book report:

- the type of book report you are writing
- the title of the book
- the author of the book
- the time when the story takes place
- the location where the story takes place

- the names and a brief description of each of the characters you will be discussing
- many quotations and examples from the book to support your opinions

### **Option #1: Plot Summary**

When you are writing a plot summary for your book report, you don't want to simply retell the story. You need to explain what your opinion is of the story and why you feel the plot is compelling, unrealistic, or silly. It is the way you analyze the plot that will make this a good report. Make sure that you use plenty of examples from the book to support your opinions. Try starting the report with a sentence similar to the following: The plot of *I Married a Sea Captain*, by Monica Hubbard, is interesting because it gives the reader a realistic sense of what it was like to be the wife of a whaling captain and live in Nantucket during the 19th century.

#### A. Introduction

- a. This paragraph includes general information, such as the author and the title of the book as well as what type of book it is (fiction, biography, information, etc.).
- b. Include your main/controlling idea and opinion (See example above).

#### B. Summary

- a. These paragraphs should include a general summary of the book with special attention to the plot elements that support your main/controlling idea.

#### C. Conclusion

- a. This paragraph includes a brief restatement of your main/controlling idea and opinion, and a few closing remarks.

### **Option #2: Character Analysis**

If you choose to write a character analysis, you can explore the physical and personality traits of different characters and the way their actions affect the plot of the book.

- Explore the way a character dresses and what impression that leaves with the reader.
- What positive characteristics does the character possess?
- Does the character have a "fatal flaw" that gets him/her into trouble frequently?
- Try taking examples of dialogue and analyzing the way a character speaks. Discuss the words he/she chooses, and the way his/her words affect other characters.
- Finally, tie all of your observations together by explaining the way the characters make the plot move forward.

Try starting the report with a sentence similar to the following: In the novel *Charlotte's Web*, by E. B. White, Templeton the rat may seem like an unnecessary character but his constant quest for food moves the plot forward in many ways.

#### A. Introduction

- a. This paragraph includes general information, such as the author and the title of the book as well as what type of book it is (fiction, biography, information, etc.).
- b. Include your main/controlling idea and opinion (See example above).

## B. Summary

- a. These paragraphs should include examples with quotations that further prove your main idea about the character is well-founded. It should also strive to provide new insight to the chosen character beyond what is described in the book.

## C. Conclusion

- a. This paragraph includes a brief restatement of your main/controlling idea and opinion, and a few closing remarks.

### **Option #3: Theme Analysis**

Exploring the themes (or big ideas that run throughout the story) in a book can be a great way to write a book report because picking a theme that you care about can make the report easier to write. Try bringing some of your thoughts and feelings as a reader into the report as a way to show the power of a theme. Before you discuss your own thoughts, however, be sure to establish what the theme is and how it appears in the story.

- Explain exactly what theme you will be exploring in your book report.
- Use as many examples and quotations from the book as possible to prove that the theme is important to the story.
- Make sure that you talk about each example or quotation you've included. Make a direct connection between the theme and the example from the book.
- After you have established the theme and thoroughly examined the way it affects the book, include a few sentences about the impact the theme had upon you and why it made the book more or less enjoyable to read.

Try starting the report with a sentence similar to the following: In the novel *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, by Mildred Taylor, the theme of racial prejudice is a major catalyst in the story.

## A. Introduction

- a. This paragraph includes general information, such as the author and the title of the book as well as what type of book it is (fiction, biography, information, etc.).
- b. Include your main/controlling idea and opinion (See example above).

## B. Summary

- a. These paragraphs should include examples with quotations that further prove your main idea surrounding the themes of the book are well founded. It should also strive to provide new insight beyond what is clearly stated in the book.

## C. Conclusion

- a. This paragraph includes a brief restatement of your main/controlling idea and opinion, and a few closing remarks.

No matter what type of book report you decide to write, make sure that your writing is clear and expressive and that you include examples from the book to support your opinions. Book reports may seem disconnected from your other school work, but they help you learn to summarize, compare and contrast, and make predictions and connections.

### **Middle School Summer Reading Book List:**

*Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

*Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

*Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery (any book in the series)

*A Place to Hang the Moon* by Kate Albus

*Bomb* by Steve Sheinken

*Booked* by Kwame Alexander

*Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank B and Ernestine Gilbreth

*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

*Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

*Hiding in the Light* by Rifqa Bary

*Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

*Refugee* by Alan Gratz

*Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe

*Souder* by William Howard Armstrong

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

*The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank

*The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper

*The Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter

*The Only Thing to Fear* by Caroline Tung Richmond

*The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain

*The Red Badge of Courage* by Steven Crane

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*The Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss

*The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

*The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

*The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London