



Hampton Christian Academy

6th Grade

Dear Parents,

As we enter the summer, all of us—parents, students, and teachers—are excited about the well-earned break from the rigors of school. At the same time, however, we recognize that much hard-earned knowledge tends to slip away during this period of rest. Meeting the challenge of academic retention requires active planning. There is no question that one of the most valuable components to your student's long-term academic success is **reading**. Students who are strong, avid readers are generally good students and competent test-takers. Hampton Christian Academy remains committed to doing all we can to develop our students' reading skills and help them discover the life-long pleasure reading can bring to their lives.

Accordingly, each student entering 6th grade is **required to read a Newbery Award book** during the summer break. Newbery Honor and Newbery Medal book lists are readily available through an online search. Public librarians and book stores are also quite familiar with Newbery books. Parents are encouraged to take time to browse the book choices and assist their child in selecting a book appropriate to their interests, abilities, and maturity level. They should select a book they haven't read before. (*Note: Students are NOT allowed to read *Elijah of Buxton*, *Flora & Ulysses*, *Johnny Tremain*, or *Sign of the Beaver* as they are already included in the middle school curriculum.) Students will need to write a report on their chosen book, using the attached form as a guideline. The report will be due by the end of the first week of school in August. A copy of this letter and the requirements for the written report will be available on the school website (www.hamptonchristianacademy.org) throughout the summer. Students and parents are required to sign the honor statement at the bottom of the report for the student to receive credit. The summer reading report will be averaged as a double quiz grade with the first quarter language arts grades for next year.

Students and parents should establish individual reading goals to aid students in their time management. We strongly recommend that students begin their reading no later than mid-July to avert a reading crisis in August...especially if you have a family vacation planned for late summer!

We recognize that there are many excellent books that are not Newbery Award books; however, to receive credit towards the summer reading grade, student-selected books **must be either a Newbery Honor or Newbery Medal book**. It is our hope that students will read other books in addition to the one required.

The success of any program is the direct result of parental support and involvement. We encourage you to look over the possibilities, visit the public library or book stores, and help your student get started on summer reading. We realize this program requires extra effort from both you and your student. It is just such effort that will reap academic benefits in the life of your student. We look forward to the continued partnering with you in this effort to help your student reach his/her God-given potential.

Sincerely,

Meredith C. Cowley
Director of Guidance

HCA REQUIRED SUMMER READING: 6th Grade

Students who read gain information, increase vocabulary, and improve comprehension. Therefore, to promote student reading and evaluate reading proficiency, HCA Upper School is continuing its REQUIRED summer reading program.

Students will be expected to turn in their summer reading reports/forms to their Language Arts teacher during the first week of school. Students in 6th grade will earn a possible 100 summer reading grade, assuming satisfactory completion of work. The written report must be neat, thoughtful, and correct to receive full credit, written in a style appropriate to a formal book report.

Break into summer reading with a positive attitude. Don't procrastinate! Visit your public library, stop by local book stores, trade books with friends. Make time to read — on the beach, in the car, anywhere.

Use the form below as the **required format** for a record of the Newbery book you read. Print and attach a copy of this form to your formal report. Be sure to answer each question in your written report and be sure to complete the form. Remember to sign your name under the statement, "I have read this book during the summer of _____ (year), and I have not read the book for a prior class or previous book report."

**Be truthful: do not sign until you have read the book! Have your parent sign also, verifying his/her supervision.*

STUDENT READING FORM

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: _____

1. Summarize the story (plot) in one or two paragraphs (100 words minimum).
2. Describe/discuss at least one of the characters from the book. Do not focus solely on physical appearance: consider personality traits, attitudes, quirks, etc. Explain the character's significance or role in the book. This will be a separate paragraph from the plot paragraph(s).
3. What is the theme or purpose of the book? In one or two sentences discuss the main point (lesson, moral) of the book.

Please read the following statement and sign below: I HAVE READ THIS BOOK DURING THE SUMMER of _____ (year), AND I HAVE NOT READ THE BOOK FOR A PRIOR CLASS OR PREVIOUS BOOK REPORT.

STUDENT: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT: _____ DATE: _____