



Dear Middle School Parents:  
Assalamu Alaikum

As summer vacation is near, I would like to congratulate everyone on the completion of another successful year. Summer is a great time for fun and relaxation, but it is also an ideal time to review and brush up on academic skills with reading as a priority. Students who do not review tend to regress in the fall upon returning to school.

Reading in the summer can be enjoyable and beneficial, especially without the stress of the school's year's daily homework. It is an ideal time to teach students to love to read especially since reading a book can improve so many skills. Studies show that those who read tend to have stronger skills in the following areas: comprehension, writing, vocabulary, spelling, and even oral communication. Reading is especially key in middle school when the textbook reading levels tend to become more challenging. A good reader will succeed in all academic areas since comprehension is the basis of all subjects.

This year all middle school students will be required to complete **three** assigned readings during the summer months, each with its own assignment. Students will have until the first Monday of the school year to complete their assignments. The novels will be discussed in class and will be an integral portion of the curriculum for the first few weeks. All students will be graded on this assignment; therefore it is critical that all students use the summer to their benefit. Even those traveling overseas can read for about 20 minutes a day. The airplane rides are an ideal time to catch up.

Please refer to the attached documents for the books and assignments. Please do not limit your child to the three novels during the vacation. It is

recommended that your child complete 3 additional books during the summer, making sure to vary the genres. If you have any questions or would like some suggestions, please feel free to email me at [emana@alhamraacademy.org](mailto:emana@alhamraacademy.org). You may also refer to the town of Shrewsbury Middle school summer reading list options.

Thank you for your cooperation and involvement in working to make your child a successful reader. And remember, kids who see parents reading are more likely to read and develop a love for it!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan



Sr. Eman Abdeljaber  
Reading/LA teacher for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

# Summer Reading 2024

## Students Entering Grade 7

Following is a list of the required summer reading for 6<sup>th</sup> graders entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Please make sure the reading assignments have been completed by the first Monday after returning to school. You will be required to do the activities listed below specific to the novels. You will be graded on these assignments for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. Please keep in mind that all of you need to work on your reading comprehension skills and reading is the only way to accomplish it. Remember don't limit yourselves to just these books. Read additional ones also. Refer to the Shrewsbury Public Schools Summer Reading Lists for suggestions.

Required Novels: You must read these!

### I. Fiction

#### ***Where The Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls**

In *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Billy and his precious coonhound pups romp relentlessly through the Ozarks, trying to "tree" the elusive raccoon. In time, the inseparable trio wins the coveted gold cup in the annual coon-hunt contest, captures the wily ghost coon, and bravely fights with a mountain lion. Then the victory over the mountain lion turns to tragedy. This unforgettable classic belongs on every child's bookshelf.

-Amazon.com-

#### **Activity #1: Design a Flyer**

After reading the story, design a flyer advertising the Annual Coon-Hunt Contest. Make sure to address the questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why or How? Your flyer should include prizes and illustrations. Your flyer can be done on the computer or by hand if you are an artist. Be detailed and neat and make sure it is organized well.

### II. Fiction

## ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor:**

Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice. And it is also Cassie's story—Cassie Logan, an independent girl who discovers over the course of an important year why having land of their own is so crucial to the Logan family, even as she learns to draw strength from her own sense of dignity and self-respect. ---Amazon.com----

### **Activity #2: Writing a Newspaper Article**

After reading the conclusion of the story, write and illustrate a newspaper article about the events of the night T.J. gets arrested at the end of the novel. Explain the details of why he is in trouble and make predictions about what will happen to him next. Write from the perspective of white news reporter of that time. Make sure to use 5+ examples from the text. Must be typed, but you may include hand drawings if you choose.

Please make sure your article is neat and organized!

## **III. Quran**

### ***Surat Furqan* (#25)**

Read the surah in its entirety. In verses 63-77, there is a focus on the slaves of Rahman (Ibad al Rahman).

### **Activity #3:**

Type a 1-2 page paper (double spaced- size 12) which answers the following points:

- What characteristics make someone worthy of being slaves of Rahman? Focus on five characteristics.
- Focus on five characteristics and prioritize them in order of importance in your personal life. Number one is the most important characteristic to you.
- Which do you consider to be the most challenging characteristic? What steps would you take to implement the most challenging of those characteristics?

