



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 20-30 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. 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 6th and 7th



Summer Reading 2023

Students Entering Grade 6

Following is a list of the required summer reading for 5th graders entering the 6th 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 readings. You will be graded on these assignments for the 1st quarter of the 2023-2024 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 Readings: You must read these!

I. ***The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis:**

The year is 1963, and self-important Byron Watson is the bane of his younger brother Kenny's existence. Constantly in trouble for one thing or another, from straightening his hair into a "conk" to lighting fires to freezing his lips to the mirror of the new family car, Byron finally pushes his family too far. Before this "official juvenile delinquent" can cut school or steal change one more time, Momma and Dad finally make good on their threat to send him to the deep south to spend the summer with his tiny, strict grandmother. Soon the whole family is packed up, ready to make the drive from Flint, Michigan, straight into one of the most chilling moments in America's history: the burning of the Sixteenth Avenue Baptist Church with four little girls inside.

-Amazon.com-

Activity #1: Write Letters to Friends and Family

Help Byron write a letter to his friends and family back home in Flint, Michigan telling them about his experience in the south and comparing his life in Michigan to the lives of African Americans in the south. Include details relevant to the novel. Please type the letter. Make sure it is thorough and neat. Enclose it in an addressed envelope. Remember, the letter is from Byron, but you can make up any person to address it to.

II. **Read Surat Luqman (#31) in both English and Arabic**

Activity #2

Read Sura Luqman (31) in its entirety in both English and Arabic. Reflect on Luqman's advice to his son. Type a 1-2 page paper (double spaced- size 12) which answers the following points:

- Focus on five pieces of advice mentioned in Surat Luqman that you applied or should have applied in certain situations. Explain.

- Prioritize those five pieces of advice in a list and explain why you ordered them in that manner. Number 1 should be the most important to you. How did or how could this advice have affected your personal situations?
- Which of the five pieces of advice do you consider to be the most challenging to follow? What steps would you take to implement the most challenging advice into personal situations?

III. ***Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli**

Maniac Magee is a folk story about a boy, a very excitable boy. One that can outrun dogs, hit a home run off the best pitcher in the neighborhood, tie a knot no one can undo. "Kid's gotta be a maniac," is what the folks in Two Mills say. It's also the story of how this boy, Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee, confronts racism in a small town, tries to find a home where there is none and attempts to soothe tensions between rival factions on the tough side of town. Presented as a folk tale, it's the stuff of storytelling. **Maniac Magee** won the 1991 Newbery Medal.

-Amazon.com-

Activity #3: Writing a Newspaper Article

After reading the conclusion of the story, write and **illustrate** a newspaper article about *Maniac Magee* and why he may be viewed as a hero. Make sure to include 3+ details from the text. Be creative and neat.

