

Dear Sixth Grade Students and Parents:

Welcome to Sixth Grade English! This summer you will be required to read two books to fulfill your summer reading obligation. Students entering 6th grade must complete—*by the first day of school*—the required book and one book of his/her choosing. Specific guidelines for students entering sixth grade are outlined below:

1. Read the required 6th grade book, *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster. This book will be discussed in the fall and will be a major component of our opening literature unit.
2. Complete the written summer assignment for all incoming 6th graders—*see attached*.
3. *In addition to the required book*, read one book *of your choice* by the first day of school. (Books that have been read previously may not be counted for summer reading.) The Summer Reading List for 6th Grade provides numerous recommended titles. The recommended reading list will be attached to this letter. Complete the written assignment for *The Phantom Tollbooth* only.
4. Complete the contract indicating that you have read the required book and another of your choice. *The student and a parent must sign the contract*. By signing the contract, parents are approving their child's selection for the book of their choice.
5. Turn in the contract and written assignment on the first day of school. The written assignment will be graded for neatness and accuracy. There will be a 10% grade reduction in the grade for each day the assignment is late. A major test over *The Phantom Tollbooth* will be given during the first month of school; therefore, we suggest that you wait until closer to the start of the year to read the required book and complete the written assignment.

Have a blessed summer—and enjoy your summer reading!

2024 Summer Reading Program Contract

NAME: _____

GRADE ENTERING IN THE FALL:

6th

Summer Reading — REQUIRED Novel:

Title: *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Author: Norton Juster

Summer Reading — Personal Selection:

(ONE REQUIRED -- See Summer Reading List for suggestions)

Title: _____

Author: _____

HONOR PLEDGE:

I pledge my honor that I have completed a thorough reading of the above listed novels by the first day of school.

SIGNED (student) _____ Date _____

NAME (please print) _____

SIGNED (parent) _____

Book Reporting: 6th Grade Summer Written Activities

These alternative assignments to a standard "book report" can be used for reporting on your required novel. Choose one of the activities listed below to complete for *The Phantom Tollbooth*. In addition, please fill out the attached Book-Info Chart to help you organize your thoughts and information.

1. Write a diary as if you were one of the main characters in the book. Tell not only what is happening to you and others, but also how you feel about what is taking place. Make a minimum of ten, sequential entries of at least five sentences each.
2. Write a letter to the author of the book. Emphasize the parts of the book you liked best, one part you would change (specifically telling how you would change it), and name your favorite character. Be specific about why you found the character likable and/or believable.
3. Write a letter to a main character from the book. Giving advice on what he/she should do to solve the conflicts that have been presented in the novel. Be sure your advice is different from the way the author resolves the problems.
4. Write a one-page biography of a character from the story. Use any and all information given by the author throughout the book. Write the facts about the character in chronological order, even if they weren't presented that way during the story.
5. Write a one-page summary of the story. Be sure to include the main characters, setting, plot, climax, and resolution—but be brief and to the point. Put the title and author's name at the top of the page, and put your name at the bottom.
6. Write one-page essay about one of the book's characters. In the first paragraph, explain how the character is like you. In the second, explore how the character differs from you.

Name: _____

Book Info Chart

Character Name:

What adjectives would you use to describe this character?

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What evidence from the book makes you think so?

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Write a brief sentence describing each of the main characters.

Explain the main problem of the story.

List four other main events in the story.

Describe the setting.

What would you consider the high point (climax) or the story?

Summer Reading Written Assignment: Grading Rubric

Do not fill out this grading rubric. Return it to your teacher attached to any additional documents on the first day of school.

Clarity of Writing (10 points)

Uses vocabulary appropriate for grade level and audience.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Creativity (15 points)

While staying true to book content, the student's work:

Exhibits originality of subject or idea.

1 2 3 4 5

Displays imagination in manner of production/presentation.

1 2 3 4 5

Demonstrates effective expression of ideas.

1 2 3 4 5

Quality of Project (30 points)

Represents extensive study and effort.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Exhibits appropriate grade level work and does not plagiarize.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Creates visually appealing product (neatness, graphics, etc.).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Depth of Written Expression (30 points)

Places proper emphasis on important items.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Shows clear understanding of the book.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Portrays complete book concepts without plagiarism.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Interest Evoked (5 points)

Encourages others to read the book.

1 2 3 4 5

- OR -

Supports rationale for NOT encouraging others to read the book.

1 2 3 4 5

TOTAL PROJECT POINTS: _____ out of 90 points