



Dear GEMS-

Summer is a wonderful time for traveling, going to camp, and hanging outside with friends, but for those days when it's too hot, or you think "I'm bored," we have the GIA Summer Reading Requirement!

Reading during the summer helps improve your reading skills as well as building your vocabulary, and help develop critical thinking skills to help you through life's many challenges.

Choose TWO books from the list for your upcoming grade level. I have compiled a list of four to five books that you may choose from. At the beginning of next school year, your teacher will take up your completed Summer Reading Assignment for a grade.

You can find your summer reading books at the public library, bookstores, or online. Share your books with friends and family and talk about what you've read.

Most importantly, choose two books from the list that you will enjoy! Reading is meant to be fun. :)

Enjoy your summer,  
Mrs. Dees  
Girls Academy Director

## **LOWER SCHOOL Booklists**

### ***Rising 1<sup>st</sup> graders:***

Ada Twist Scientist  
Tar Beach  
Chrysanthemum  
Leave Me Alone!

### ***Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> graders:***

Last Stop On Market Street  
Blackout  
My Name is Yoon  
Ramona (series)

### ***Rising 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders:***

The Other Side  
Drum Dream Girl  
Abby Takes a Stand  
Ivy & Bean (short chapter)  
Keena Ford

### ***Rising 4<sup>th</sup> Graders:***

Meet Danitra Brown  
Softball Surprise (short chapter)  
Clementine  
Alison Dare (graphic novel)

## **Lower School Required Assignment:**

Pick two of the books lists and use one of the activities below to share you knowledge of the book (one activity for each book). Summer reading activities will be shared in the first week of school, so please bring them then. Of course, feel free to complete more than two if you'd like. Most importantly, just keep reading!

### ***Assignment Choices***

1. Write a letter to the main character and the character's reply.
2. Write a different ending for the book.
3. Pretend you are a talk show host and interview the main character.
4. Create a travel brochure for the setting of the story or scrapbook pages about key characters.
5. Create a book jacket, including illustrations, an enticing synopsis, author bio, and favorable reviews.
6. Summarize the book into a comic or story aimed for younger scholars or your classmates.
7. Write a news article about an important event from the book.
8. Write about the decisions you would make if you were the main character in the book.
9. Chose two characters from the story and write a conversation they might have.
10. Explain why you think this book will or will not be read 100 years from now.  
Support your opinion by stating specific events in the story.
11. Write a letter/email to the author of your book. Address it to the publisher and mail it. Or, see if the author has a Web site and email it.
12. Write a ballad or song about the characters and events in your story. Set the words to the music of a popular song.



In addition to the summer reading assignments we are requiring Genesis Scholars to learn and be able to recite a poem from memory this summer. Memorizing poetry is not busy work. It's not an assignment to just give our scholars something else to do this summer. Memorizing poetry is an investment in our scholars' future ability to communicate. Poetry memorization builds vocabulary and reading comprehension. When a scholar performs a recitation, she is building speech and presentation skills. As the girls completely learn and are able to recite the poems they will feel a huge sense of pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment.

*The poem titles for each grade level are as follows:*

**Rising 1<sup>st</sup>:** Unexpected Holiday – by Alana for Ada

**Rising 2<sup>nd</sup>:** The Voice – by Shel Silverstein

**Rising 3<sup>rd</sup>:** The Swing – by Robert Louis Stevenson

**Rising 4<sup>th</sup>:** Invictus – by Ernest Henley

**Rising 5<sup>th</sup>:** Don't Go Into the Library – by Alberto Rios

**Rising 6<sup>th</sup>:** Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All – by Maya Angelou

**Rising 7<sup>th</sup>:** Tending – by Elizabeth Alexander