

Rising Sixth Grade

Summer Reading Requirement

Over the summer, rising sixth grade scholars are required to read “*The School the Aztec Eagles Built: A Tribute to Mexico’s WWII Air Fighters*,” by Dorinda Nicholson and create a Podcast relating to the book. You may create a podcast from the perspective of a character or retell the book’s story. You can easily record the audio for the podcasts on a computer or smartphone. You can also use a free sound editing program—such as Audacity or GarageBand—to edit their recording. Your teacher will give you explicit instructions on how to submit your podcast during the first week of school. Your podcast should be 5 minutes or less and is due by Friday August 5, 2022. We encourage you not to wait until the due date to complete the assignment as teachers will issue additional assignments based on the selected readings during the first two weeks of school.

Help creating a podcast

If you aren’t familiar with podcasts, you can listen to podcasts such as Youth Radio and StoryCorps before creating their own or follow the links below for additional support.

<https://www.helloteacherylady.com/blog/how-to-create-student-podcasts-in-the-classroom>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Un2O8dawMzI>

The 6th Grade Required Summer Reading book is “*The School the Aztec Eagles Built: A Tribute to Mexico’s WWII Air Fighters*,” by Dorinda Nicholson. “*The School the Aztec Eagles Built: A Tribute to Mexico’s WWII Air Fighters*” is a photo-illustrated book about the Aztec Eagles, Mexico’s World War II Air Force squadron interwoven with the story of Sergeant Angel Bocanegra, whose service was rewarded with the building of a school in his village.

https://www.amazon.com/School-Aztec-Eagles-Built/dp/1600604404/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1XR88BUD58NZS&keywords=the+school+the+aztec+eagles+built&qid=1653508507&prefix=the+school+the+aztec+eagles+built%2Caps%2C67&sr=8-1

Rising 7th GRADE
SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT

Girls

If you will be a seventh-grade student in the Girls' academy, you will read *The First Rule of Punk* and create an elevator pitch by Friday August 5, 2022. "The First Rule of Punk" is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.

https://www.amazon.com/First-Rule-Punk-Celia-P%C3%A9rez/dp/0425290425/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=the+first+rule+of+punk+by+celia+c.+peréz&qid=1653508698&prefix=the+first+rule+of+%2Caps%2C69&sr=8-1

Boys

If you will be a seventh-grade student in the Boys' academy, you will read *Season of Styx Malone* and create an elevator pitch by Friday August 5, 2022. *The Season of Styx Malone* is a contemporary, realistic middle grade novel written by Kekla Magoon. Caleb Franklin, 10 seeks a summer of unique adventures to prove he is the opposite of ordinary, despite his father's insistence that Caleb and his brother Bobby Gene never stray beyond the town limits.

https://www.amazon.com/Season-Styx-Malone-Kekla-Magoon/dp/1524715980/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2AL3FWDQRXYH7&keywords=season+of+styx+malone+by+kekla+magoon&qid=1653508845&prefix=season+of+s%2Caps%2C81&sr=8-1

Elevator pitch

An "elevator pitch" (i.e., a pitch delivered in the time it would take to ride an elevator) explains to a movie producer why a story would make a good movie. In your elevator pitch, you will explain to a viewer why your required summer reading book would make a good movie. You will give suggestions about who should play the characters and identify an element that might need to change for the movie version.

You must write a script for your 3 minute elevator pitch over the summer and record yourself reciting the elevator pitch. Your teacher will give you explicit instructions on how to submit your elevator pitch during the first week of school. We encourage you not to wait until the due date to complete the assignment as teachers will issue additional assignments based on the selected readings during the first two weeks of school.

Rising 8th GRADE
SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT

Interview with a character

Sometimes a character in a book feels so real that you can almost imagine talking to them. This summer, you will read the book *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, and create 10 interview questions for a select character from the book. After you finish writing the interview questions, you will also answer the questions from the perspective of the character. Type your interview questions and responses in a word document using 12 point font in Times New Roman.

The book *Animal Farm* is about a farm which is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, the animals set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned—a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible. <https://www.amazon.com/Animal-Farm-George-Orwell/dp/0451526341>

Your teacher will give you explicit instructions on how to submit your podcast during the first week of school. We encourage scholars not to wait until the last minute to complete the assignment as teachers will issue additional assignments based on the selected readings during the first two weeks of school. For example, you will have to also create a mock talk show with literary characters as the interviewed guests during week two of the fall semester based on the characters in *Animal Farm*.