



South Shore Charter Public School

Inspiring every student to excel in academics, service, and life

June 25, 2010

Dear Level IV Parents and Students,

Summer provides students, parents, and teachers with an opportunity to relax and read at a leisurely pace. The intent of the summer reading program at South Shore Charter Public School is to challenge, motivate, and entertain students as they develop into lifelong readers. This summer all Level IV students will be required to read two books. One title is required of all students within the grade and is drawn from the English curriculum. A second title comes from the history curriculum and requires the completion of a project which will be part of student's first quarter history grade. Students may choose the history books from the list provided in the packet.

Students will be assessed on the required English book during the first weeks of school. This book will fuel class discussions at the start of the year. The assignment required for the other book is described in the attached pages.

To continue to enhance critical thinking and reading skills, research tells us that books are most effectively read and understood when they are discussed while reading them. We encourage parents to read these selections with their children and engage in discussions at the dinner table, at the pool, or wherever the summer may take you. While only two books are required, we hope that students will read daily during the summer from all types of literature.

In addition to summer reading students may want to use some of their summer to get a head start on their community service requirement. Seventh graders must complete 20 hours by the end of the school year and eighth graders must complete 25 hours.

I look forward to seeing everyone in August. If you have any questions before the start of the school year, please email or call me.

Sincerely,

Emily Merwin
Level IV Coordinator

100 Longwater Circle
Norwell, MA 02061
781-982-4202
www.sscps.org

Summer Reading
Grade Seven

All students must read the required English selection. Students should choose one title from the list of History selections.

English

Required: Down the Rabbit Hole by Peter Abrahams

The book will be the basis of several in class and homework assignments. Come to class prepared to discuss the book. After an appropriate amount of in class discussion and review, students will be tested on Down the Rabbit Hole.

History

Choose **one** book from the list below.

The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Detectives in Togos by Henry Winterfeld

The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare

Mara, Daughter of the Nile, by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

Goddess of Yesterday, by Caroline Cooney

Orphan of the Sun, by Gill Harvey

You will be required to complete a project that summarizes the history book that you read this summer. This project is due the first day of school and will be collected by your history teacher. Be sure to incorporate your name, the name of the book, and the author of the book into your project. Your project must show the time period when your book takes place. You should describe the main character and how historical events impact him or her. Of particular interest is the setting and historical context of the book. What was happening in the character's environment? What did you learn about the time period and the people who lived during that time? You may choose **one** of the following types of projects, depending on what interests you most. The criteria that will be used to assess your work are attached.

1. *oral presentation*: An oral report provides students with an opportunity to present their book creatively. Reports should be between 3 and 5 minutes long and may incorporate music, props, costumes, or anything else that helps you clearly describe your book to your classmates.
2. *visual presentation*: A visual presentation may be a poster, timeline, mobile, or other visual product that displays information about your book in a creative manner.
3. *written report*: A written report must adequately explain the plot of your book and the historical context of the story. Your written report must be at least five paragraphs long and include both an introduction and a conclusion.

Summer Reading
Grade Eight

All students must read the required English selection. Students should choose one title from the list of History selections.

Language Arts

Required: Peter and the Starcatchers by Dave Barry

The book will be the basis of several in class and homework assignments. Come to class prepared to discuss the book. After an appropriate time for discussion and review, students will be tested on Peter and the Starcatchers.

History

Choose **one** book from the list below.

The Second Mrs. Gioconda, by E.L. Konigsburg

Catherine, Called Birdy, by Karen Cushman

The Midwife's Apprentice, by Karen Cushman

The Door in the Wall, by Marguerite De Angeli

Bound, by Donno Jo Napoli

Incantation, by Alice Hoffman

The Shakespeare Stealer, by Gary Blackwood

Crispin: The Cross of Lead, by Avi

You will be required to complete a project that summarizes the history book that you read this summer. This project is due the first day of school and will be collected by your history teacher. Be sure to incorporate your name, the name of the book, and the author of the book into your project. Your project must show the time period when your book takes place. You should describe the main character and how historical events impact him or her. Of particular interest is the setting and historical context of the book. What was happening in the character's environment? What did you learn about the time period and the people who lived during that time? You may choose **one** of the following types of projects, depending on what interests you most. The criteria that will be used to assess your work are attached.

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2. *visual presentation*: A visual presentation may be a poster, timeline, mobile, or other visual product that displays information about your book in a creative manner .
3. *written report*: A written report must adequately explain the plot of your book and the historical context of the story. Your written report must be at least five paragraphs and include both an introduction and a conclusion.

Level IV Summer Reading Project Criteria
(Only ONE assignment is required.)

Written Report

Area of Assessment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Time period of the book is described	10	
Main character and impact of history on the character is described	20	
Report details the setting (place, mood, atmosphere)	10	
Report describes what was learned about the events of the time period	10	
Report describes what was learned about the people of the time period	10	
Title of book, author, and name are included	10	
Report contains correct spelling, grammar, and mechanics	20	
Report is on time	10	
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Oral Report

Area of Assessment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Setting of the book is described (time, place, mood, atmosphere)	20	
Main character and impact of history is described	20	
Report describes what was learned about the time period	10	
Report describes what was learned about the people of the time period	10	
Title of book, author, and name are included	10	
Student effectively presents the information using appropriate intonation, posture, and eye contact	20	
Report is on time	10	
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Visual Presentation

Area of Assessment	Points Possible	Points Earned
Project displays details about the setting (time, place, mood, and atmosphere)	20	
Project displays information about the characters	15	
Project shows information about the historical context	15	
Project shows creativity and effort	20	
Title of book, author, and name are included	10	
Report contains correct spelling, grammar, and mechanics	10	
Report is on time	10	
TOTAL POINTS	100	