



5th Grade Summer Reading 2023

Why encourage a summer reading plan for your children?

Studies suggest that children who read as few as six books over the summer maintain the level of reading skills they achieved during the preceding school year. Reading more books leads to even greater success. When children are provided with 10 to 20 self-selected children's books at the end of the regular school year, as many as 50 percent not only maintain their skills, but actually make reading gains.

Research suggests that if children have opportunities to listen to, discuss, and read books on topics that they select, or books about characters that they love, they develop extensive background knowledge that can strengthen their independent reading and sustain their engagement.

Source: <https://study.com/blog/why-is-summer-reading-so-important-for-kids-success.html>

Harding Academy has set in place a summer reading program for all lower school students. Each grade level has **one required book** to be read. An assignment is to be completed and returned to the teacher the first day of school. The information in this assignment will be used to create a fun project during the first weeks of school. See the attached pages for the summer reading assignment.

The book for fifth grade is: Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Additional suggestions for reading this summer:

The 39 Clues: series by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson: series by Rick Riordan

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

The Redwall series by Brian Jacques

Millicent Min. Girl Genius by Lisa Yee

A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

I Survived: series by Lauren Tarshis

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian by C.S. Lewis

Note: The written assignment for the required reading book and more information about first week of school activities can be found on the following pages.

Summer Reading Information: During the first week of school, fifth graders will take part in lessons and activities based on Crash by Jerry Spinelli. Students will design a button that captures the personality of one of the characters. The button project will be completed at school. The rubric below explains how the project will be assessed. Fifth graders will also participate in a short book study, work with a customized list of spelling words taken from the book, and take a test over the book.

Crash by Jerry Spinelli

Design a Button Rubric



Name _____ Score _____

	5	4	3	2	1
Button Design	The button was attractive and colorful. It was neatly completed.	The button was somewhat attractive and colorful and the work was acceptable.	The button was either messy, unattractive, and lacking color.	The button was either messy and unattractive, or messy and lacking color, or unattractive and lacking color.	The button was messy, unattractive, and lacking color.
Character analysis	The personality of the character was captured in the design of the button.	The personality of the character was partially captured in the button.	A very minor aspect of the character was captured in the button.	There was a trait listed on the button, but it did not describe the character at all.	There was no character trait evident.
Explanation	The paragraph explained why the trait was chosen.	The paragraph somewhat explained the choice of the character trait.	The paragraph mentioned the trait, but it did not explain the choice.	The paragraph focused on a trait that was not included in the button.	The paragraph did not mention the character trait.
Evidence	The paragraph cited evidence from the story that provided solid proof that the trait was part of the character.	The paragraph cited evidence from the story that provided some proof that the trait was part of the character.	The paragraph cited evidence from the story that provided little proof that the trait was part of the character.	The paragraph cited evidence from the story, but it did not provide proof that the trait was part of the character.	The paragraph did not cite evidence from the story.
Grammar/Spelling/Punctuation	There were 3 or fewer errors within the paragraph.	There were 4 - 6 errors within the paragraph.	There were 7 - 8 errors within the paragraph.	There were 9 - 10 errors within the paragraph.	There were more than 10 errors within the paragraph.



5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Directions: Complete this worksheet and give it to your teacher on the first day of school. Use complete sentences.



Name _____

1. What is the plot of this story? What is this book about?

2. Who are the two main characters?

3. What are some characteristics of the two main characters? (appearance, personality, beliefs etc.)

4. Which character did you like best? Why?

5. What is the setting of this book? Where does it take place?

6. What are some of the problems Crash has to deal with throughout the book? How does he deal with these challenges? What is the outcome?

7. What are some of the things that Crash discovers about himself and others throughout the book?

8. What is the turning point of the story?

9. What is your favorite part of the story? Give a specific example from the book that really stood out to you.

10. If there was one thing you could change about the story, what would it be?

11. How did you personally connect with the story? Did it remind you of anything, or could you relate to it? Why?

12. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or Why not?
