



## **Summer Reading: Students Entering 5th Grade**

### **Summer Reading Assignment for 2009-2010 School Year**

You need to choose one book from the reading list for the grade you are getting ready to enter. You may, of course, read more than one on the list, but you will need to complete the following assignment on one of the books. The assignment will be turned in to your next year's English teacher during the first or second week of school (to be determined by individual teachers). Students may also choose a book that is not on the reading list as long as it is approved by their parent / guardian, is found by searching the website [arbookfind.com](http://arbookfind.com), is 150 pages long for students grades 4-5, or is two hundred pages long students grades 6-12.

### **Reading Response Journal**

Writing in response to literature can be a great way for students to organize their thoughts, explore what they think, and even to generate ideas. Writing in journals allows students to capture their ideas and to better understand and relate to work of fiction. For your chosen book, you will be completing reading response journal. Use one page per item or question. Answer the following items/questions about your book:

- Summarize what you just read.
- Describe the setting's time and place. Draw it.
- Describe your least favorite character and explain why. Describe your most favorite character and explain why.
- Think of a problem that a character had to face. Write the problem and how the character solved it or is working to solve it. If you were that character, what would you do differently?
- Does the title fit the story? Why or why not?
- Do you like what you're reading? Why or why not?
- List five major events in order from which happened first to last.
- Why did you choose this to read? Give at least 3 reasons.
- Who is the author? What do you know about the author? What do you imagine the author must be like?
- What are some things you do when you don't understand what you're reading?

- Feel free to decorate your pages and to make your journal interesting.
- Then, create a cover for your journal. It needs to include the title of the book, the author's name, your name, and a picture of a scene from the book (you may either draw it or make a collage using magazine pictures).

**Directions: You need to choose one of the following books to read over the summer, but, of course, you may read more! You will complete an assignment over the book that you have selected. This assignment will be turned in during the first week of the school year.**

***The Lost Years of Merlin* – T.A. Barron**

A young boy with no memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of adventures. *Lost Years of Merlin* series.

***Al Capone Does My Shirts* – Gennifer Choldenko**

A twelve-year old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

-Newbery Honor

***Heartbeat* – Sharon Creech**

Twelve-year old Annie ponders the rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

***The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story* – Mary Downing Hahn**

Tired of the strict set of rules imposed on them since "the bad thing" happened," twelve-year-old Diana is tempted to break the mysterious rules in hopes of making friends with the new caretaker's daughter at the old Willis place.

***North* – Donna Jo Napoli**

Tired of his mother's over-protectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year old Alvin spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.

***Fair Weather* – Richard Peck**

In 1893 thirteen-year-old Rose and members of her family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

***Wild Boy: A Tale of Rowan Hood* – Nancy Springer**

Determined to avenge the death of his swineherd father at the hands of the Sheriff of Nottingham, Rook finally gets his chance when the Sheriff's son is captured by Robin Hood.