

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING JOURNAL RESPONSES

Respond to your summer reading by writing a journal. (A small spiral notebook is recommended.) These responses need not be in formal essay form but should show your reflections and reactions as you read. Most of the suggestions below require only a paragraph-response. There are no right or wrong answers here; however, your response should demonstrate serious thought and care and should reflect your personal reactions to your reading. Choose one topic from Group I Suggestions, one topic from Group II Suggestions, and two topics from Group III Suggestions. Please be sure to identify the author and title of the books you have chosen as well as the topics to which you have responded.

GROUP I SUGGESTIONS

After you have read a few chapters, choose one of the following:

1. Predict what you think the major problem for the main character is going to be. How do you think he/she will deal with it? What can you anticipate for the rest of the book? (Correctness does not count here; just make a guess.)
2. Does one of the main characters remind you of someone you know? Explain why.
3. Choose a close friend or family member and write a letter. Explain to that person why he or she would like or dislike the book at this point.
4. Create your own response that seems appropriate after you have read a few chapters.

GROUP II SUGGESTIONS

After you are midway into the book, choose one of the following:

1. Summarize the problems that the characters are facing. What might be possible solutions? What might hinder success?
2. Choose an incident to which you can relate. Explain the event and why it is significant to you.
3. Take a photo or find a picture in a magazine and tape it into your journal. Explain how it creates the feeling or suggests a scene from the book.

4. List four or five key events which have occurred in the main character's life. Explain why each event was important.
5. Choose a quote from the first half of the book that is significant to you. Explain its relationship to the book and you.

GROUP III SUGGESTIONS

After you have finished reading the book, choose two of the following:

1. You are a teacher. Prepare a bulletin board about this book. Explain what you would put up to illustrate the book.
2. An author makes himself known through the characters, events, and descriptions provided in the book. From these three areas, what do you think are the author's personal and moral views and standards?
3. Make a list of the rules by which you think the main character lives.
4. You are the director of the movie version of this work. Assist the musical director in choosing the music which would convey the mood of the original book. Explain whom you would cast for the main characters and tell why.
5. The main character will appear on "Sixty Minutes." Make up a set of questions to ask in the interview.
6. You are a writer for a school newspaper. Write a review of this book highlighting its major points and making a recommendation to your readers.

COHASSET MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Reading Guide Symbols: *High Interest/Easy Reading; +Challenging;
•Mature Language

GROWING UP . . . HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD

Bad, Badder, Baddest by Cynthia Voigt

Sixth graders Mikey and Margalo devise a plan to prevent Mikey's parents from getting a divorce. But the two friends find their scheme ruined by a new girl in school.

The Bean Trees + by Barbara Kingsolver

Attempting to break away from her harsh life in Appalachia, Taylor Greer finds herself in a small Oklahoma town, with a new name, a new life, and strangest of all, a new Cherokee baby girl whom she names Turtle.

Bless the Beasts and the Children + by Glendon Swarthout

Six adolescent "misfit" *boys* set out on a fantastic mission to save themselves in a society dedicated to a narrow view of success.

A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich by Alice Childress

A family tries to save a young drug user from himself.

Ironman • by Chris Crutcher

Bo Brewster is forced to attend group anger-management classes. The group helps him understand his lifelong anger at his father and becomes his greatest support in training to be a triathlete.

Jacob Have I Loved by Katherine Paterson

Louise believes that everyone loves her twin sister best - and that makes her hate Caroline all the more.

Linger * by M.E. Kerr

When his older brother suddenly joins the army and is sent to the Persian Gulf, 16-year-old Gary begins to take a look at the restaurant that has been the focal point of their family and their small Pennsylvania town:

Living Up the Street by Gary Soto

This collection of prose reflects the author's experiences being Mexican-American while growing up in Fresno, California.

Make Lemonade by Virginia Euwer Wolff

Told in an unusual poetic form, this novel concerns the complex but nurturing relationship between 14-year-old college-bound LaVaughn and 17-year-old Jolly, a single parent.

Night Kites by M. E. Kerr

Erik's conventional teenage life is devastated by his love for flamboyant Nicki and the catastrophic knowledge of his brother's affliction with AIDS.

The Outsiders * by S.E. Hinton

Ponyboy's best friend, Johnny, saves him from a rival gang but commits murder in the process.

Permanent Connections by Sue Ellen Bridgers

Forced to spend a semester in his father's small hometown, Rob finds his feelings of alienation diminishing as he forges relationships with relatives and friends.

Rule of the Bone + • by Russell Banks

A teenage dropout on the run from home in upstate New York skirts the underworld and finds horrifying abuse.

Tangerine * by Edward Blorr

Paul Fisher, a legally blind seventh grader, has a passion for soccer and a deep mistrust of his football hero brother, Erik. Why is everyone-except Paul himself-blind to the terrifying truth about Erik?

Toning the Sweep * by Angela Johnson

Fourteen-year-old Emily's grandma is dying of cancer and the caring teen decides to use her camcorder to record some special memories of her grandmother.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn + by Betty Smith

Frances grows up in the slums of Brooklyn from 1902-1919.

The Trouble with Lemons * by Daniel Hayes

Tyler thinks of himself as a "lemon" because of his allergies and his asthma. When he and his best friend find a dead body at the local quarry and set out to solve the mystery, they hope to gain some self-confidence.

ISSUES

At Risk by Alice Hoffman

A compassionately told story about an upper middle class family narrates the events that befall them when their young daughter, a talented gymnast headed for the Olympics, is diagnosed with AIDS.

The Borning Room * by Paul Fleischman

A story of four generations of Ohioans (1850-1918) describes their most important events - births and deaths - which take place in their home's borning room.

The Contender; The Brave; The Chief (sequels) by Robert Lipsyte

An African-American and a Native American struggle against themselves and their environments to succeed in the world of boxing.

The Day They Came to Arrest the Book * by Nat Hentoff

School newspaper editor Barney Roth protests library censorship efforts.

Deathwatch by Robb White

Needing money for school, a college boy accepts a job as guide on a desert hunting trip and may lose his life as a result.

Downriver; River Thunder (sequel) by Will Hobbs

In a tale of suspense and personal growth, rebellious Jessie and seven other alienated kids abandon the leader of their wilderness survival school team and attempt to navigate the dangerous rapids of the Grand Canyon on their own.

The Face on the Milk Carton by Carolyn Cooney

As Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl on the milk carton, she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl - it was she. How could it possibly be true?

Fallen Angels • by Walter Dean Myers

Coretta Scott King Award. Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army to escape home problems and fights in Viet Nam. Memorable and honest. Realistic language.

The Goats by Brock Cole

The victims of a vicious summer camp prank, two young teens learn personal and physical survival skills when deserted on an island.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse, a curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boy's detention center, Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what can the warden be looking for under a dried-up lake?

I Am the Cheese + by Robert Cormier

Adam bicycles through New England to meet his father and discover the truth about his own shadowy childhood.

Izzy, Willy-Nilly by Cynthia Voigt

Izzy has everything going for her until she is in an automobile accident with her new date and has to have her leg amputated. Nothing will ever be the same.

Nothing but the Truth * by Avi

A documentary novel. Was ninth grader Phi] Malloy suspended for singing the National Anthem, or for breaking a school rule? The incident quickly becomes national news that spirals out of control.

Out of the Dust * by Karen Hesse

A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm, and Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma-and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

Song of the Trees, (prequel), Let the Circle Be Unbroken, The Road to Memphis (sequels to Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry) by Mildred D. Taylor

In this inspiring saga, Cassie Logan and her loving, close-knit family are determined to maintain their pride and independence against hard times and racial inequities in the South.

Troubling a Star by Madeline L'Engle

Vicky discovers her assumptions about the world are hopelessly naive as she is caught up in a mystery of drugs, nuclear waste and international espionage.

OTHER PLACES ... OTHER TIMES

Anne Frank Remembered by Miep Gies

Anyone who has been moved by the diary of Anne Frank will want to read this memoir of risk and heroism told by the “ordinary” Dutch housewife who tried to save the Franks from the Nazis.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman by Ernest Gaines

A novel in the guise of the tape-recorded-recollections narrates the life of a black woman who has lived 110 years.

Beyond the Western Sea by Avi

Maura and Patrick O’Connell, fifteen-and twelve-year-old Irish peasants, and Sir Laurence Kirkle, eleven-year-old son of an English Lord, seek the promise of justice America holds.

A Bone from a Dry Sea by Peter Dickinson

A girl joins her father on an African expedition, and while their relationship is slowly re-established, she finds clues to the existence of a young girl who lived millions of years ago.

Cold River by William Judson

Lost in the Adirondack wilderness in the 1920s, a girl and her brother fight for survival against hostile elements.

Dances with Wolves - by Michael Blake

A Civil War veteran adopts the ways of the Native Americans and fights for their principles.

The Glory Field by Walter Dean Myers

Beginning with 14-year-old Lizza Lewis, this is the story of generations of struggle, of joy and strength, of one family and one field.

Good Night, Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian

A boy is evacuated from London during World War II to escape the German bombing and makes a new family with a lonely old man named Tom in the English countryside.

Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen

Twelve-year-old slave Sammy risks terrible punishment as, letter by letter, an adult slave, Nightjohn, teaches her how to read.

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

In this novel of good and evil, a poor fisherman finds the Pearl of the World.

The Ruby in the Smoke; Shadow in the North; Tiger in the Well by Philip Pullman

This is a trilogy in which Sally Lockhart becomes involved in solving mysteries in Victorian London.

So Far from the Bamboo Grove; My Brother, My Sister and I (sequel) by Yoko Kawashima Watkins

In the first of these books the author relives the harrowing flight she, her mother and sister made from Korea to their native Japan during the last, chaotic days of World War II. The second book vividly recounts the experiences of Yoko and her siblings, living as refugees after their mother's death and waiting anxiously for their father's return.

Wolf by the Ears by Ann Rinaldi

This historical novel explores the life of Harriet Hemmings, a household slave and possible daughter of Thomas Jefferson.

A Yellow Raft in Blue Water + by Michael Doris

This is the fierce saga of three generations of Native American women torn by angry secrets but joined together by lasting bonds of kinship.

ADDING HUMOR TO OTHERWISE SERIOUS SITUATIONS

Absolutely Normal Chaos * by Sharon Creech

Mary Lou Finney grudgingly begins writing a journal as a summer project, recording her observations of love, death-even the mechanics of holding hands.

The Arizona Kid by Ron Koertge

For Billy it was a summer to remember - away from home for the first time and living with his gay uncle, working at Tucson's biggest racetrack, and falling in love with an outspoken horse exerciser named Cara Mae.

Catherine Called Birdy and The Midwife's Apprentice by Karen Cushman

Catherine - A girl in 1290 keeps a diary of her life and her fight to ward off all suitors. Midwife - In medieval England, a homeless girl finds her place in the world.

Celine by Brock Cole

Before Celine, a 16-year-old artist, can take a promised trip to Europe, she must "show a little maturity, finish an overdue paper, and support her 7-year-old neighbor during his parents' separation.

Cold Sassy Tree + by Olive Ann Burns

When the preacher of Cold Sassy, Georgia, elopes with a woman half his age (not to mention a Yankee), the sleepy little town comes alive

Walk Two Moons * by Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Salamanca Tree and her eccentric grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. A novel that is in turn funny, mysterious, and touching

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 * by Christopher Paul Curtis

Because Kenny Watson's older brother Bryan is fast becoming a juvenile delinquent, the family drives from Detroit to Birmingham so that Grandma can straighten him out.

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

Dandelion Wine + by Ray Bradbury

The summer of 1928, spent in rural Illinois, is a special one to young Douglas Spaulding.

The Ear, the Eye, the Arm by Nancy Farmer

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

The Eyes of a Dragon by Stephen King and Peter Straub

This fantasy adventure brims with firebreathing dragons, the most evil of wizards, enchanted forbidding castles, and a terrible secret.

Interstellar Pig by William Sleator

A bored kid on vacation is fascinated by the people next door and a board game they play, and learns that neither is what it appears.

Jurassic Park + by Michael Crichton

A technique for recovering and cloning dinosaur DNA has been discovered. Creatures extinct for eons now roam Jurassic Park, and all the world can visit them. Then something goes wrong.

Redwall by Brian Jacques

In this first in a series of six Redwall adventures, Matthias, mousekind's most unlikely hero, goes on a wondrous quest to recover a legendary lost weapon.

Watership Down + by Richard Adams

In a unique odyssey, a rabbit warren tries to survive when a construction team moves into their territory.

SPORTS

The Big Three: Bird. McHale and Parish: The Best Frontcourt in the History of Basketball by Pete May.

May follows and analyzes the careers of three of the best ever frontcourt players during their many Celtics championship years in Boston.

Heart of a Champion * by Carl Deuker

While Seth struggles to deal with his father's death and accept his limitations as a ballplayer, Jimmy, who displays major league potential, seems bent on a path of self-destruction.

Iceman by Chris Lynch

Fourteen-year-old Eric, a ruthless hockey player prone to violence on the ice, tries to reconcile his own needs with those of his parents.

The Moves Make the Man by Bruce Brooks

Jayfox and Bix move in, out, and around racial differences, family dysfunction, and an unsteady friendship.

My Life in the Negro Leagues by Wilmer Fields

One of the black legends of baseball describes the grueling life on the road and the trials and triumphs of 25 years in the racially segregated world of baseball during the 1920s through the 1950s.

Rebound: The Odyssey of Michael Jordan by Bob Greene

A portrait of Jordan is “painted” from acclaimed sportswriter Greene’s own experience with Jordan.

Running Loose * by Chris Crutcher

Louie Banks has good friends, a starting spot on the football team, and a great girlfriend. But when tragedy strikes, Louie must release his anger and find something new in which to believe.

Shadow Boxer * by Chris Lynch

Marty, who has caught the boxing bug that, slowly killed his father, refuses to understand his 14-year-old brother George’s view that physical violence creates as many problems as it solves.

Shoeless Joe + by W.P. Kinsella

A farmer with dreams builds a baseball diamond amid the Iowa cornfields and waits for the outstanding, but dead, baseball players of the past to show up for a very special game.

Slam! * by Walter Dean Myers

He realizes his coach cannot see beyond today’s win, his grades aren’t so hot, his temper is, and he discovers his friend and mentor deals drugs. However, 17 year-old talented basketball player Slam Harris continues to fight to keep his game - on and off the court - together.

The Summer of ‘49 + by David Halberstam

This is a classic book about the unforgettable pennant race between the legendary New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. The author vividly recounts that summer, with players such as Yogi Berra, Dominic DiMaggio, Mel Parnell, and others. Photographs.

Wrestling Sturbridge by Rich Wallace

Ben wrestles not only his high school opponents but also the big issues of life and love and the choices a teenager must make.

BIOGRAPHY/NONFICTION

Albert Einstein by Milton Dank

A poor student, Einstein had a brilliant career as a physicist and achieved fame with his theory of relativity, simply and well explained in this book.

All Creatures Great and Small + by James Herriot

This memoir of an English countryside veterinarian is filled with humor, tall-telling and a love of life.

Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave by Virginia Hamilton

Based on historical fact, this is the account of the escape, the capture, and the sensational 1894 trial of fugitive slave Anthony Burns

The Beatles by Hunter Davies

During the 1960s, the author traveled with the Beatles. Here he follows their personal and musical lives from their start in Liverpool to their retirement.

The Boys' War by Jim Murphy

Firsthand accounts including diary entries and personal letters describe the experiences of boys 16 years or younger who fought in the Civil War. More than 60 archival photos.

Cesar Chavez: Leader for Migrant Farm Workers (or other higher level biographies of Chavez) by Doreen Gonzales

This is a profile of the Mexican-American union activist who led the struggle of migrant farm workers for better working conditions.

The Diary of Latoya Hunter: My First Year in Junior High * by Latoya Hunter

A girl's journal of her first year at Junior High School 80 in New York's West Bronx describes her experiences, including the shooting death of a neighbor, her brother's wedding, and the birth of her unmarried sister's baby.

The Elephant Man + by Christine Sparks. (There is also a same title by Frederick Drimmer)

This novel is based on the life of John Merrick, a man born horribly deformed physically, but who possessed the soul of a poet and the heart of a dreamer. This moving story shows that humanity has nothing to do with outward appearances.

Kaffir Boy +; Kaffir Boy in America + (sequel) by Mark Mathabane

This is the unique first-person account of growing up Black in apartheid South Africa, followed by the author's experiences as a college student in the U.S. after his escape.

Night; Dawn (sequel) by Elie Wiesel.

In this real-life account, a Jewish boy survives the horrors of Auschwitz and Buchenwald death camps during World War II, and goes on to be liberated and become an esteemed writer and Boston University professor.

The Pigman and Me * by Paul Zindel

In this engaging memoir, Zindel describes his ten years growing up on Staten Island, NY, and who became the model for the character in Zindel's how he found his own pigman, or mentor, who became later writing.

Running Tide by Joan Benoit

This Maine-based Olympic gold medalist and multi-time winner of the Boston Marathon tells of her childhood, training, and competition experiences.

Ryan White: My Own Story by Ryan White and Arm Marie Cunningham

Before he died at age 18 of AIDS acquired from blood transfusions for his hemophiliac condition, Ryan White had battled fear and hatred, became a spokesperson for AIDS awareness, testified before the President's commission on AIDS, and touched millions of lives.

This Boy's Life: A Memoir + by Tobias Wolff

The award-winning author recounts his growing up in the 1950s when, separated by divorce from his father and brother, Toby and his mother develop a telepathic trust that sees them through their wanderings from Florida to Washington state as Toby fights the unrelenting hostility of his stepfather.

Unbuilding by David Macauley

This fictional account of dismantling and removal of the Empire State Building describes the structure of a skyscraper and explains how such an edifice would be demolished.

The Way Things Work by David Macauley

Text and imaginative drawings explain and illustrate the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines, including a lawn sprinkler, pneumatic drill, electric guitar, and a smoke detector.

Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo * by Zlata Filipovic

The compelling, firsthand account tells of the destruction of a young Croatian girl's city in the Yugoslavian war.