



Islamic School of Irving Summer Homework Students Entering into Eight Grade

As Salamualaikum Wa Ramathu lillahi Wa Barakathahu Dearest ISI Families,

As research as shown over and over again summer learning is the key to ensuring student learners are well prepared and successful during their academic year.

JazakAllah Khair for taking the time to ensure that your child completes the expected summer learning assignments. It may be summer, but practicing essential skills will help ensure your child has a successful year in Eight Grade. This success will help lay the groundwork to build your child's literature skills as they complete their middle school years and head into high school. You will find the summer learning break down and the expectations that ISI has for your incoming 8th grade child as they come into school. Assignments are mandatory and will be due when school begins for their very first test grade in their English class.

Please print or save the following pages to refer to as often as you need to.

Additionally, visit the library often and read award-winning books. Below are some good websites where you can find which books to read.

To check out items using IPL (Irving Public Library) Express, place a hold on the item(s) you'd like by searching for it in the online catalog located here:

<https://irving.polarislibrary.com/polaris/default.aspx>.

Log in with your library card number (no spaces) and PIN to place the request. Once notification has been received that your items are ready to be picked up, visit the library you've chosen with your library card or current photo ID to check them out.

You may also call to place a hold. Please allow the branch at least an hour to pull the requested books.

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/Newbery-Award-Winners.html>

Please view the following clip for background on the Lexile scale:

[Lexile Framework Short Clip](#)

Your child's individual Lexile Range can be found on the MAP progress report in the reading section. Visit Lexile.com to enter this range and find a variety of books that are just right for your child!

Summer Learning Work Break Down:

- English Class Assignment (Explained Below)
- Perfect your daily prayer (wudu, surahs, and depth)
- Be able to be successful on the expectations for 7th grade breakdown.

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Islamic School of Irving's Incoming Eighth Grade Exceptions

For your child to be successful in eighth grade, the following basic skills need to be mastered.

In 8th grade, students read and understand a variety of informational texts including essays, speeches, biographies, and other types of historical, scientific, and technical material. Students also read and understand a wide range of literature such as stories, plays, and poems from across cultures and time periods. In writing and class discussions, 8th graders continue to gather information from multiple sources and evaluate whether the sources are credible and accurate. Students write both short, focused compositions, and longer papers that involve research, reflection, and revision over time.

ELAR

- Able to read Rich and Challenging Texts
- Citing Evidence
- Analyzing Themes
- Understanding Vocabulary (author's word choices, analogies, allusions etc.)
- Creating Stories
- Learning New Word and Phrases (using Greek and Latin Roots)
- Making Supported Arguments
- Informative Papers
- Producing and Publishing
- Basic Rules of English
- Class Discussion
- Giving a Presentation
- Research Projects
- Locating Information
- Evaluating Sources
- Evaluating Others' Arguments

Math

- Classify and use real numbers.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.



- ❑ Evaluate numerical and algebraic expressions by using the order of operations (PEMDAS).
- ❑ Use the Distributive Property to evaluate and simplify expressions.
- ❑ Solve equations by using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

8th Grade Mandatory English Summer Homework

For students enrolled in 7th and 8th grade, reading two books off of this list and completing ***one of the projects*** during the summer is mandatory. Students are welcome to read more books. Projects and Novel Annotations will be due soon after school begins.

** Pretest and projects may also be assigned in the first grading period based on the reading list.

Helpful Resources; Please follow the link to print and use the Graphic Organizers to help your child become a better reader.

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/encouraging-reading-writing/graphic-organizers-for-reading>

Annotation: Annotation is ***required*** on all the books.

6 Steps of Annotating

When annotating, complete all of these steps in the margins of the text:

1. Circle and define any unknown words.
2. Summarize each section/stanza.



3. Underline/highlight key phrases
4. Note word patterns, repetitions, point of view, or anything else that strikes you as confusing or important (label literary/rhetorical devices).
5. Write down questions (at least 3).
6. Determine the overall theme(s), remembering that themes CANNOT be one word.

Please follow the link for further annotation guidelines.

<https://research.ewu.edu/c.php?g=82207>

Choose any option from the list below to complete the Summer Reading Projects on at least two or more books.

Option 1: Character Journal: A character journal is a journal/diary written from the perspective of a character in a book. The reader writes in the first-person voice of the character in response to the unfolding of events in the book, much like a personal journal/diary you might keep for yourself. In keeping a character journal, the reader becomes more involved in the literature being read and attains a deeper immersion in the role of the character.

Directions: Your character journal must include at least four entries; each entry must be at least 200 words in length. Each entry must be original. Grades will be based on the quality of writing, the chances taken, and the degree to which you are able to capture the character or show insight into the character's plight.

Option 2: Letter to the Author:

Write a letter of at least 500 words in which you discuss the author's work. Your letter should include at least one of the following:



- * Discussion /question about
- * Discussion/ question about character
- * Discussion/question about setting
- * Discussion/question about the author's inspiration for the story

Directions: Even though the letter is relatively informal, it must be written in well-organized paragraphs. Every point you make or question you have should be supported with a specific textual reference, including a direct

quote and page number. If you praise the author, explain what specific choices the author made and explain how it contributed to the novel's effectiveness. If you want to complain about something, the same holds true. Cite a specific choice that you think did not work effectively and explain why it didn't work. Your grade will be based on the thoughtfulness of your responses.

Option 3: Technology Project :

Create a slideshow presentation using powerpoint, or any other similar program. Focus on thematic content with support from the text. Your grade will be based on the depth of your interaction with the text.

**** All assignments are to be completed individually without the aid of an outside sources***

Required Book List (It is mandatory to pick 2 books from this list):

1. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler* by Phillip M. Hoose

During WWII, Denmark didn't resist Nazi occupation, and this deeply shamed 15-year-old Knud Pedersen, who along with his brother and some classmates started a small, secret club of political resisters in 1941. Full of brave but naïve teenage boys desperate to undermine the Nazi regime, the Churchill Club committed 25 acts of sabotage -- disabling German vehicles, stealing Nazi arms, and destroying and defacing German property -- before being



arrested in 1942.

2. **I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Martin Ganada and Caitlin Alifrenka**

In 1997, 12-year-old American middle schooler Caitlin and 14-year-old Zimbabwean Martin are paired as pen pals through their schools. At first, Caitlin sends photos and trinkets and asks for the same, not realizing the depths of poverty in which Martin lives. Eventually Caitlin and her family start to send financial support to Martin, and their international friendship forever changes each of their lives.

Caitlin and Martin's letters and perspectives will teach kids to better appreciate their relative good fortune and to understand how a little bit of

help and a lot of compassion can make a huge impact on someone else's life. Caitlin and Martin's extraordinary friendship should inspire your kid to be a better global citizen.

3. **An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir**

This dual-narrative fantasy follows two characters in an alternate universe with a strict caste system: Laia is a Scholar (the oppressed class), and Elias is an elite military student for the Empire. After Laia's brother is arrested, she joins a resistance movement that places her as a slave at the military academy where Elias is a rising star. Despite their differences, the slave and the soldier have more in common than they care to admit, and together they could start a revolution.

One of the biggest debuts of the year, Tahir's fantasy novel is already a *New York Times* bestseller and has secured a sequel as well as a lucrative movie deal.

4. **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio by Peg Kehret**

Peg Kehret may be best known for her thrillers for middle-school readers, such as *Runaway Twin* and *Ghost Dog Secrets*. But *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio* is 100 percent memoir. The true story she shares of becoming paralyzed and having to learn to walk again is every bit as dramatic as her novels. Kehret's struggles may speak to kids who have had to triumph over their own different challenges.

5. **The Ranger's Apprentice, Book 1: The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan**



On Training Day, 15-year-old Will hopes to become a knight. Instead, he's chosen to become one of the spy-like Rangers, darker protectors of the kingdom. *The Ruins of Gorlan* has fast-paced battle scenes that may appeal to thrill-seeking tweens and teens. (But bear in mind it may be tough on more sensitive kids). This 12-title fantasy series will satisfy summer readers who crave books about magic, adventure and monsters.

6. Tangerine by Edward Bloor

There's a lot for readers to latch onto in this dark but well-loved novel for middle-schoolers. A cross-country move forces 12-year-old Paul to start over in Tangerine County, Florida. His parents pay attention only to his football-hero brother, who's falling in with a bad crowd. And no one will give Paul a solid explanation for the accident that left him nearly blind. That challenge makes even playing soccer—his favorite activity—difficult. *Tangerine* can be violent at times, and it addresses head-on some of the stigma around having an IEP. But these gritty details make it an unforgettable story and appealing to certain readers.

7. Old Yeller by Fred Gipson

The story of a boy and his dog in the Texas hill country is an unforgettable and deeply moving experience. A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (fantasy) An unflinching, darkly funny, and deeply moving story of a boy, his seriously ill mother, and an unexpected monstrous visitor.

8. The False Prince by Jennifer Nielson

In a discontent kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner devises a cunning plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (contemporary) Esperanza, a migrant, must find a way to rise above difficult circumstances during the Great Depression.

9. Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson.

This is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilks Booth.

10. The Notorious Benedict Arnold by Steve Sheinkin.

A gripping adventure tale from history, this book is packed with first-person accounts, astonishing American Revolution battle scenes, and surprising twists.



11. Anthem By Ayn Rand.

In a future world, only one man dares to think, strive, and love as an individual in the midst of a paralyzing collective humanity.