

Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School
2019 Middle School English Language Arts
Summer Reading Assignment

Book Requirements

The purpose of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional English Language Arts Summer Reading Assignment is to encourage and to instill a love of reading. For this reason, **all students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 are to read two books before returning to school in the fall:** One of the books has been assigned, and the student is allowed to choose the second book. The following texts have been assigned to each grade:

- Students entering grade 6: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- Students entering grade 7: *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
- Students entering grade 8: *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson

In regards to the book the student is allowed to select on his/her own, it is important to note that the book:

- Must be approved by the parent/guardian.
- Must be at the student's reading level.
- Must be one that the student has never read before on his/her own or in class.

Attached is a list of the Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2020 Nominees that you may want to consider when choosing a book.

Summer Reading Assignment Guidelines

Book #1 – The Assigned Text

1. Read the book that was assigned for your grade.
2. Answer the attached study guide questions. Answer all questions in complete sentences, and include details from the book to support your answer.

Book #2 – Student's Choice

1. Read the book you have chosen for your summer reading selection.
2. Fill in the "Summer Reading Graphic Organizer" as it relates to your summer reading selection.
3. Choose one prompt from the "Middle School Summer Reading Response Directions," and write a one-to-three paragraph constructed response based on your summer reading selection. (A graphic organizer is attached to help you draft your constructed response.)

This assignment is due Thursday, August 29, 2019.

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Touching Spirit Bear

By: Ben Mikaelson

Directions: After reading each chapter, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use details from the book to support your answers.

Chapter 1

1. Where is Cole being sent, and why is he being sent there?
2. How does Cole feel about banishment as a punishment?
3. How does Cole view adults and authority? Cite examples from the book.
4. Garvey, the youth probation officer, introduces Cole to the concept of Circle Justice. Briefly describe what Circle Justice is.
5. Why does Garvey state “Something terrible has happened to you to make you want to kill a poor small animal”? Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not.

Chapter 2

1. Garvey tells Cole that “You figure if I’m scared of you, you can trust me.” What does he mean by this? Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
2. What are some of the advice and warnings Edwin gives Cole for surviving the island?
3. Spirit Bear is introduced in chapter two. Describe this bear.
4. Is there any significance in the fact that Spirit Bear is a pure white black bear?
5. What does Cole say he would do to Spirit Bear? What does Edwin tell him?
6. What does Garvey leave with Cole? What must he do with it?
7. Do you think Garvey agreed to be Cole’s sponsor for the Circle because Cole genuinely had changed? Why or why not?
8. What does Cole do to his shelter at the end of the chapter? Why do you think he did this?

Chapter 3

1. How does Garvey convince Cole to eat the groceries?
2. Think back to Garvey’s statement in the first chapter that “Something terrible has happened to you to make you want to kill a poor, small animal.” Then, look at the list of the “ingredients” of Cole’s life on page 31. How do these connect?
3. Describe Cole’s plan to escape the island. Do you think he will be successful?
4. Who is allowed to be at Cole’s Circle?
5. Why is it important for Peter to forgive Cole?

Chapter 4

1. Why is it significant that Cole gives a threatening look to Peter at the beginning of the Circle?
2. According to the Keeper, what is the point of the Circle, and why does regular justice often fail?
3. Do you think that everybody who is present at the Circle has a sincere reason for being there? Do you think that there are people who don’t want to be there?

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Chapter 5

1. For the first time, Cole admits that he made a mistake. What was this mistake?
2. Describe Cole's first encounter with what appears to be Spirit Bear.
3. Review the four comments made about Cole at the Circle on page 46. Which comments do you agree with? Which ones do you disagree with? Justify your answer.

Chapter 6

1. What does Cole accuse his father of in the Circle? How does his father respond?
2. Why do you think Cole's mother did not tell the Circle how his father would beat up on him?
3. When the Keeper asks Peter what needs to be done to make things better, he responds by saying "I think someone should smash Cole's head against a sidewalk so he knows how it feels." Do you think Cole already knows how this might feel? Why or why not?
4. When leaving the Circle, in reference to his father, Cole asks Garvey, "Did you hear him lie tonight?" Garvey responds, "He wasn't the only one." To whom is Garvey referring?
5. Cole reformulates his plans for leaving the island. How will he try his next escape?
6. Garvey discusses some of the reasons that isolation works to help heal a criminal. What are these reasons?
7. Outline what will happen to Cole after the banishment is over.

Chapter 7

1. As chapter seven begins, Cole finds himself needing to "clear the anger and pressure from his mind." Does this support Cole's healing process? Why or why not?
2. What weapon does Cole create and how does he make it? What does he intend to use it for?
3. Cole plans on escaping the island, yet still attempts to kill Spirit Bear. What does this say about Cole, and his respect for life?
4. As Cole inches towards Spirit Bear, he stops, looks around, and becomes aware that nobody is watching and he could easily back away. What compels him to keep approaching Spirit Bear?
5. Describe Spirit Bear and its characteristics.
6. What do you think will happen when Cole gets close enough to kill Spirit Bear?

Chapter 8

1. Describe Spirit Bear's attack on Cole.
2. As Cole lays bleeding, he thinks to himself, "What luck... [t]o end up on an island with a stupid bear that didn't have brains enough to run away." Has Cole realized his responsibility for what has happened?
3. Cole states he would rather be in a prison cell than on the island. What are his reasons?
4. What does Cole's crushing of the caterpillar indicate about his personality, even in his beaten state?
5. Look back to Peter's comments at the Circle. What similarities are there between what Peter wanted for Cole and what has happened to him?
6. Do you feel bad for what has happened to Cole? Why or why not?

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Chapter 9

1. Cole comments that “Nobody else cared about him, so why should he care about himself?” Is it true that nobody else cares about him? Even if nobody cares about Cole, why should he care about himself?
2. What happens to the tree with the sparrow’s nest during the electrical storm?
3. Why do you think Cole calls out to see if the baby sparrows are okay?

Chapter 10

1. Cole notices that the baby sparrows tried to do something before their death. What was it? How does Cole relate this to his experience growing up?
2. Cole begins to think about the circle of life. What is this circle, according to Cole, and how does he feel about his role in it?
3. Cole thinks “The power to choose was the real power, not the fake power of making others afraid.” Explain this statement.
4. What does Cole catch to eat at the end of this chapter?

Chapter 11

1. In this chapter, what are some of the things Cole does to survive?
2. Spirit Bear appears near Cole at the end of this chapter. What do you think will happen to Cole?

Chapter 12

1. When Spirit Bear comes back, why do you think Cole chooses not to spit on him, but instead touch him?
2. How does Cole feel about death?
3. What was the buzzing sound Cole heard?
4. Was it really the seagulls grabbing at Cole and trying to lift him up?
5. What do Edwin and Garvey do with Cole?
6. When Cole says that he’s okay, what does he mean by this?

Chapter 13

1. When Rosey asks for a blanket, Garvey wants to hand him the atóow. Why is it significant that Cole reaches out and grabs it?
2. Why is it significant that Cole whispers “My fault!” when Garvey apologizes for getting Cole into this situation?
3. Garvey tells Cole that he will still be facing jail time when he recovers. Considering what he went through, do you think this is fair?
4. Why does Cole throw out the hair he pulled from Spirit Bear? Would you have done the same?
5. Edwin says that Cole will be okay if he ever finds a reason to live. Do you think Cole has found his reason to live? Explain.

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Chapter 14

1. What happened to Cole's father? Why does it seem Cole's mother charged him?
2. Cole's mother appears to have a change of heart regarding her lifestyle and relationship with Cole. Describe the changes and consider why you think she has changed.
3. Cole's mother discusses how his father was beaten as a child, and she says this was a reason for him abusing Cole. How is this also a circle?
4. When Cole returns to the Circle, there are two people missing. Who are they? Why do you think they are not there?

Chapter 15

1. How is Peter recovering from the injuries caused by Cole?
2. How does Edwin demonstrate the change in Cole's path in life?
3. What did Edwin's friend Bernie see on an island near the one on which Cole had been placed? What does this prove?
4. Peter's lawyer is very rushed, and is not kind to Cole. Why do you think the lawyer acts in this manner?
5. The Keeper says that they have no way of knowing if Cole is over his anger. What is his response?
6. What news does Cole receive from Edwin and Garvey at the chapter's end? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?

Chapter 16

1. How is Cole's second trip to the island being funded?
2. When Cole asks, "What do we do first?" Garvey responds, "Everything is up to you now." Why would he say this?
3. What are some of the first tasks Cole has to complete?
4. What could Garvey's observation that "all the world is a hot dog" mean?
5. Cole briefly considers the possibility of taking the skiff and returning to the mainland. However, even if he had tried, Edwin had removed the spark plugs from the engine, so it would not have worked. What does this incident tell us about Cole, Edwin, and Garvey?

Chapter 17

1. Cole thinks about Peter when he cannot sleep. What are his thoughts? How are these thoughts different from his earlier feelings about Peter?
2. Edwin uses a stick to demonstrate a point to Cole. What is this point?

Chapter 18

1. What does Cole begin building in this chapter? Why must it be of such high quality, and why do Edwin and Garvey not help him with the labour?
2. Edwin states "Pride has no place on this island." Cite two instances in this chapter where Cole puts his pride ahead of practicality.
3. Cole is upset that Edwin and Garvey are not helping with anything. By doing nothing, are they helping Cole?
4. What does Cole take away from the whale dance?
5. What activities do Cole and Edwin do to help Cole release his anger?

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Chapter 19

1. What does Cole do after working on his shelter?
2. What is Garvey's response to Cole? Do you think it is fair?
3. What lesson does Cole learn from the wolf dance?
4. When pushing the rock down the hill, Cole comes to a realization. What is it?
5. What does Cole see as he begins to return to camp?

Chapter 20

1. What realization does Cole have regarding his father?
2. Why do you think that Edwin and Garvey don't heap a lot of praise on Cole for building his cabin?
3. Edwin put the spark plugs back in the boat two days before he and Garvey left. What does this indicate?
4. Edwin states that "you can never heal completely until you discover one thing" but does not tell Cole what that thing is. What do you think Edwin is referring to?

Chapter 21

1. Cole discovers a large piece of driftwood along the beach and realizes that there are two possible uses for it. What are they?
2. What does Cole do with the log?
3. Do you think Cole is sincere when he asks Edwin about how Peter is doing? Why or why not?
4. How does Edwin explain totem poles to Cole?

Chapter 22

1. How does Cole make himself invisible, and why is he doing this?
2. Cole appears to have discovered why Spirit Bear came to visit him, and why the fish and beaver came so close to him. What do you think the reason is?

Chapter 23

1. What does Cole believe to be the secret to be invisible? Why does he come to this conclusion?
2. What does Cole see after allowing his mind to clear and letting himself become one with nature?
3. Cole decides that he can now do the anger dance. When he is doing it, he screams "Please forgive me! I didn't mean to hurt Peter!" Think back to his motivations at the time of the assault, Cole's family history, and Cole's reaction to Peter when he hears him speak for the first time since the assault at the Circle. Is this statement true?
4. Cole also states "I forgive you" during his anger dance. To whom do you think he intends these statements?

Grade 8 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Chapter 24

1. What does Cole note about being angry at the opening of the chapter?
2. Cole learns that if he cannot help the person he wronged, he should then help somebody else. What does he correctly speculate about Edwin and Garvey?
3. Cole spots the Spirit Bear every few days now. What does this indicate about the change in Cole?
4. When Cole starts thinking about his return to Minneapolis, what is he concerned about? Why is this unusual?
5. Peter twice attempts to commit suicide, and Cole believes the answer to Peter's problems is to have him spend time on the island. Why does Cole think this is a good idea, and do you think that it will work?
6. Cole attempts to carve the bottom of the totem pole several times in this chapter, but cannot find an appropriate symbol for him getting over his anger. What do you think Cole should carve?

Chapter 25

1. What is Cole's idea to cure Peter's depression? How does Edwin react to this suggestion?
2. Do you think it is a good idea for Peter to visit the island? Why or why not?
3. About two weeks after Cole's suggestion, who arrives on the island?
4. Peter blurts "Leave me alone. I don't want your help!" to Cole. How is this situation similar to Cole's initial feelings about Garvey and Edwin? How is it different?

Chapter 26

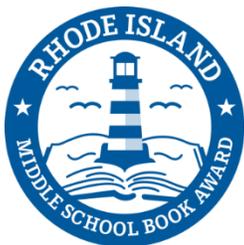
1. Peter does not want to sleep in the cabin with Cole. What arrangements are made for Cole's living quarters while Peter is on the island?
2. Do you think that Edwin purposely brought a leaky tent? Why or why not?
3. Peter shows some signs of embracing Cole's island practices. What are these?
4. Why do you think Peter threw the rock at Cole and later tossed him into the water?

Chapter 27

1. What does Peter tell Cole when he lets him into the cabin? What does Peter do in the following days that show he dislikes Cole?
2. What does Cole convince Peter to do after destroying the bear on his totem pole?
3. What does Cole say about the quality of carvings on the two boys' totem poles?
4. What does Peter do to Cole's totem pole at the end of the chapter? What does this say about the change in Peter's attitude towards Cole?

Chapter 28

1. Peter asks Garvey to not accompany Cole to the pond. Why does he do this?
2. Why does Cole not fight back?
3. Do you think Cole deserved the beating he received from Peter? Why or why not?
4. Cole states "I don't think I'll ever heal from what I did to you, but I'm sorry, Peter. I really am sorry." What then happens?
5. As the book closes, Peter states "What makes you think I forgave you?" Do you think Peter has forgiven Cole? Why or why not?



Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2020 Nominees

*Please remember not all books
are suitable for all readers*

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed*

In modern-day Pakistan, Amal must fight to regain her freedom and dreams after she is forced into indentured servitude. Realistic Fiction.

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol

Vera is excited to attend sleepaway camp just for Russian kids like her. But when camp ends up being tougher than she imagined, Vera isn't sure she will survive a whole summer of bugs bites and bullying bunkmates. Memoir/Graphic Novel.

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

Zoey knows life would be easier if she were an octopus. When a teacher sees through her camouflage, Zoey starts to wonder if maybe she can change her life. Can she gather the courage to make that decision, if the cost is leaving the only safe place her family knows? Realistic Fiction.

Bone Jack by Sara Crowe

Ash Tyler is dealing with a lot, between his father's return home from war with PTSD and his ex-best friend's increasingly strange and violent behavior. When Ash is chosen to compete in the annual Stag Chase he hopes to turn things around for his family – he just has to survive the chase. Fantasy.

City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab

Since she almost drowned, Cass has gained two things: the ability pull back the 'veil' separating the living and the dead and a new best friend, Jacob - who happens to be a ghost. Any hopes for a normal summer are dashed when Cass and her parents go Scotland to investigate the world's most haunted places. As it turns out, Cass's ghostly problems have only just begun. Horror/Suspense.

Drum Roll, Please by Lisa Jenn Bigelow

Melly should be having a glorious summer at Camp Rockaway, but it's tough dealing with her parents' divorce, her best friend ditching her, a new crush on a girl named Adeline, and a fear she doesn't have what it takes to be a real rock 'n' roll drummer. Quiet Melly needs to find her voice, get loud, and be heard. Realistic Fiction.

Echo's Sister by Paul Mosier

El's plans for a fantastic year at her new school are derailed when her sister is diagnosed with cancer. As the family struggles to meet everyone's needs they learn the true value of community. Realistic Fiction.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya*

Can Arturo save his family's Cuban restaurant and Miami neighborhood from a flashy (and wealthy) developer? Will he get the girl? Or is it all just an epic fail? Realistic Fiction.

Estranged by Ethan M. Aldridge

Edmund is not a normal teen boy - he is a changeling, a faerie swapped with a human baby, hiding his powers in our world. The Childe is his double, raised as a curiosity among the faeries. When an evil sorceress takes the throne, Childe is forced into the human world, where he and Edmund must team up to find where they belong and save the fae from ruin. Fantasy/Graphic Novel.

Game Changer by Tommy Greenwald

Teddy Youngblood gets injured and falls into a coma after football practice. Teddy's family, friends, and community wants to know if it was just an accident - or was it done on purpose? Readers are able to follow along with the characters as they unravel the mystery of what really happened on that fateful day. Realistic Fiction.

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes*

Jerome was shot and killed by a police officer, who claimed it was an act of self-defense. As time passes between life and death, Jerome bears witness to the events around his killing, relying on the stories of those who have gone before him to make sense of the tragedy. A devastating tale of history repeating itself. Realistic Fiction.

Greetings from Witness Protection! by Jake Burt*

In this funny, action packed page-turner, foster child Nicki Demere is recruited by the US Marshals to help a family in witness protection hide in plain sight. Realistic Fiction.

How We Roll by Natasha Friend

Ninth grader, Quinn, is happy to start at a new school. She hides the fact that she is bald from a medical condition and makes friends with the cool girls, but finds herself drawn to one of her new friend's exes, Nick, whose legs were amputated after a car crash. Realistic Fiction.

Illegal by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin

This graphic novel tells the story of Ebo, an orphan from Ghana, who follows his older brother to seek asylum in Europe. Their epic journey alternates between present and past as it depicts the brutal journey of asylum seekers across the Mediterranean. Realistic Fiction/Graphic Novel.

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling*

Aven was born without arms, a fact that's only the second-most interesting thing about her. The first is the fact that she and her parents just became the caretakers of an Old West amusement park where new friends – and a mystery – await her. Realistic Fiction.

Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood

Kenneth is one of many children evacuated from London to escape the Blitz during WWII. But when the ship that was supposed to take them to Canada is wrecked, the children find themselves in a fight for survival they never imagined. This story is based on true events. Novel in Verse.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson*

When Candice and her neighbor, Brandon, discover a mysterious letter in her grandmother's attic they must use clues to discover a hidden fortune - and uncover injustices from their city's past. Mystery.

Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

Ollie finds herself in possession a mysterious book after she snatches it from an odd woman crying by the river. The book warns her to 'Avoid large spaces. Keep to small.' Little does she know that these words will guide her on a twisted, hair-raising adventure after a field trip gone wrong threatens the lives of herself and her classmates. Horror/Suspense.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor*

Mason Buttle has always been a bit of an outcast, but after his best friend was killed in Mason's own backyard, life has gone from bad to worse. With the odds stacked against him, Mason will have to fight back against a suspicious town with the only weapon he has: the truth. Realistic Fiction.

A World Below by Wesley King

A ho-hum school field trip to the Carlsbad Caverns becomes a race to survive when an earthquake hits and separates the class underground. As the students look for a way out, they encounter dangers and a hidden kingdom in the world below. Action and Adventure.

****Audiobook Recommended***

For more information about the award, please visit

RI Middle School Book Award Home Page

<http://bit.ly/2ofCGOE>



Middle School Summer Reading Constructed Response Graphic Organizer

RACES

<p><u>R</u>estate the question in your own words.</p>	
<p><u>A</u>nsWER all parts correctly and clearly using complete sentences.</p>	
<p><u>C</u>ite evidence for your answer with information that comes directly from the text.</p>	
<p><u>E</u>xplain how each piece of evidence supports your answer.</p>	
<p><u>S</u>ummary statement.</p>	

Middle School Summer Reading Constructed Response Directions

Your summer reading falls into one of two basic categories: informational (non-fiction) or literary text (fiction). After determining the type of text you read, examine the writing prompts in the correct box below. Choose one prompt from the options and write a one-to-three paragraph response (constructed response) based on your summer reading selection.

Informational Text (Non-Fiction)

Choose one.

- Identify and explain the author’s purpose or attitude toward the main topic of your book. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- A journey may be physical, spiritual, or emotional. Describe the journey of the person throughout the book. In the end, what did the person learn about himself/herself and the world? Use details from the book to support your answer.
- Readers learn valuable information from informational texts. Identify the author’s main points and explain how this information affected your understanding of the topic. Use details from the book to support your answer.

Literary Text (Fiction)

Choose one.

- Identify and explain the author’s purpose or attitude toward the main topic of your book. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- Describe how the main character’s attitude changed over time. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- The climax of a literary text is often referred to as “the point of no return.” At the climax, the protagonist (main character) makes a decision that determines whether or not he/she will achieve his/her goal. Identify the climax of your book, and explain how the rising action leads to the climax. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- A journey may be physical, spiritual, or emotional. Describe the journey of the character throughout the book. In the end, what did the character learn about himself/herself and the world? Use details from the book to support your answer.
- Describe the setting and analyze its importance in the book you read. Use details from the book to support your answer.

Summer Reading Graphic Organizer – Student-Selected Text
 Complete this graphic organizer, using citations where appropriate.

Student Name	
Title	
Author	
Genre	
Setting: Be sure to include the location <i>and</i> the time period!	
<p>Point of View: How an author tells a story - There are <u>three main ways</u> that an author can choose to tell a story.</p> <p>First Person: The story is told by one of the characters in the story, and the pronoun <i>I</i> is used by the storyteller as he/she tells the story.</p> <p>Second Person: Someone who is not actually a character in the story is being told the story. The narrator uses the word <i>you</i> as the story is told to that person.</p> <p>Third Person: The story is being told by a narrator who tells the reader what the characters are thinking, feeling, and doing. This is probably the most common point of view.</p>	
<p>Plot or Events</p> <p>Exposition: The introduction, or beginning of the story, where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well.</p> <p>Rising Action: A series of events build up to the conflict; these events begin to get complicated. It is during this part of a story that excitement, tension, or crisis is encountered.</p> <p>Climax: The main point of the plot. This is the turning point of the story, and is meant to be the point of highest interest and emotion.</p> <p>Falling Action: Events and complications begin to resolve, and the result of actions of the main characters are put forward.</p> <p>Resolution: The end of the story.</p>	

