Summer Reading Projects

Projects due to Mrs. O’Brien on the first day of school
Welcome incoming fourth grade students! This year you will be reading over the summer to help prepare you for the upcoming school year!

Every incoming fourth grade student is **required** to read the following book: **Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (Lexile® Measure: 890L) -- (Genre: Fiction)

You are required to read this great novel over the summer. I encourage you to take notes as you read. Keep a small notebook and at the end of each chapter, write a short summary of the chapter.

When you return to school in September, you will be taking an end-of-the-book test on *Shiloh*. We will also watch the movie in class during the first week of school.

In addition, you are required to read two more books and complete a project for each one. I am recommending the following books, but you are **NOT** limited to this list. While reading, I suggest you use evidence flags (Post-It Notes) to mark important information you may need when completing your projects. (For example: characters, setting, plot, theme, etc.)
The One and Only Ivan – by Katherine Applegate: Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all.

Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line.

Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home—and his own art—through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better.

The Cricket in Times Square – by George Selden: The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat. (Fantasy)

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges: In November 1960, all of America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal Marshall’s, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement. Ruby Bridges chronicles each dramatic step of this pivotal event in history. Filled with historic photographs. (Genre: Historical Non-Fiction)

The Boy Who Saved Baseball by John J. Ritter: The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hope to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player Dante Del Gato. (Sports Fiction)
The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Skene: John Midas loves chocolate more than anything; he wishes he could eat it morning, noon, and night. But his appetite for sweets lands him in trouble when he eats a mysterious candy and gets much more than he bargained for. Suddenly, everything his lips touch turns to chocolate! Life is delicious for a while, but it gets complicated when he can’t play the trumpet or bob for apples. Worst of all, he forgets and kisses his mother! This classic be-careful-what-you-wish-for story is easy to read. (Genre: Humorous/Fantasy Fiction)

Everest by Gordon Korman: Four kids. One mountain. They come from all across America to be the youngest kid ever to climb Everest. But only one will reach the top first. The competition is fierce. The preparation is intense. The challenge is breathtaking. When the final four reach the higher peaks, disaster strikes – and all that separates the living from the dead is chance, bravery, and action. (Adventure)

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper: Considered by many to be mentally challenged, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time. (Realistic Fiction)
Summer Reading Activity #1: Reading Response Letter

Directions: On a piece of paper write a letter to me (your teacher) about one of your summer reading books (not *Shiloh*). If possible, please TYPE your letter. Use the format below to compose your letter. This will be handed in to me (Mrs. O’Brien) the first week of school. I am very excited to learn more about the characters in your summer reading book!

Check off each box as you complete it in the letter.

- Put the **Date** in the upper right corner
- **Greeting** (Dear Mrs. O’Brien,) (on the left-hand side)
- **Body**
  1. In the body of your letter, **write a SUMMARY of what you’ve read**. Describe the main character, setting, plot, problem and solution.
  2. **What is your OPINION about the book?** What do you like/dislike about the book? You may also share a line or moment of the text that really stood out to you.
  3. **Discuss a CHARACTER TRAIT** of the character you found most interesting.
- **Closing** (Sincerely, Your student, Your friend, etc.)
- Sign your name
**Summer Reading Activity #2: Free Choice**

**Directions:** Choose one of the following project ideas for your third book.

- Make a shadow box or diorama displaying your favorite scene.

- Create a life-size portrait of one of the characters from your book. The portrait should include a written piece that tells about the character. The piece should also include information about events, traits, or conflicts in the book that involve the character.

- Write a new ending for your story. This new ending should be at least one page in length.

- Write a continuation of your story. What happens in the new ‘next’ chapter? This should be at least one page in length.

- Make a 3 minute video recording with a reenactment of one of your favorite events from the story. You may use friends and family members as actors and actresses. Please copy the video onto a DVD, or schedule a time for your parent to bring the camcorder and necessary cables for viewing.

- Write a song that tells about your story. You may sing your song with or without music. This song can be pop, country, rap – the choice is yours! Be prepared to perform this for the class or have someone video your performance and bring the DVD for us to enjoy!
Have a safe and blessed summer! I will see you all in September.

Mrs. O’Brien