

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Fifth Grade

Required summer reading:

- *Little House in the Big Woods*, Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *Around the World in Eighty Days*, Jules Verne

Discussion Questions

Written responses to summer reading are to be turned in when school begins.

1. In *Little House in the Big Woods*, Laura and Mary lived a life very different from our lives today. In one or two paragraphs, describe Laura's life and discuss how her life was different than your life. Conclude by stating whether you would rather live as Laura did or as you do today, and explain why you made your choice.
2. In *Around the World in Eighty Days*, Phileas Fogg encounters many unforeseen circumstances which slow down his journey around the world. In one or two paragraphs, discuss a few of the problems Fogg encounters on his journey and explain how he resolves each problem.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Sixth Grade

Required summer reading (from *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S.Lewis):

- *The Magician's Nephew*
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- *Prince Caspian*

Discussion Questions

Written responses to summer reading are to be turned in when school begins. Choose two.

1. In *The Magician's Nephew*, how are Aslan's and Jadis' powers alike and different? Use examples from the book to support your discussion.
2. Describe one character in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and explain his or her strengths and weaknesses. How does the author initially introduce the character? How does this character change during the course of the novel?
3. After reading *Prince Caspian*, discuss several of the qualities that will make Prince Caspian a proficient ruler of Narnia. Use examples from the book. What does Aslan mean when he tells Prince Caspian, "Good, if you had felt yourself sufficient [to be king] it would have been proof that you were not."

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING

Seventh and Eighth Grades

Required summer reading:

- *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- *A Day of Pleasure: Stories of a Boy Growing Up in Warsaw*, Isaac Bashevis Singer

Discussion Questions

Written responses to summer reading should be answered in one or two paragraphs per question. This assignment will be turned in when school begins.

Choose one discussion question from *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.

1. Discuss two or more attributes that make Sherlock Holmes a brilliant detective. Give an example from the book for each attribute you discuss.
2. Discuss the friendship between Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. How does each man complement the other? Use examples from the book.

Choose one discussion question from *A Day of Pleasure: Stories of a Boy Growing Up in Warsaw*.

1. What kind of boy is Isaac? Does he fit the description of young Isaac in the introductory story, "Who I Am"? What are his main character traits?
2. Isaac's father, Rabbi Singer, does more than officiate at religious ceremonies. What are some of his other functions? Why does the woman come to him, for example, in "Why the Geese Shrieked"?