

Bay Haven Charter Academy  
Middle School Summer Work  
Language Arts Department

Although summer work is not required, students are strongly encouraged to read throughout the summer.

Students will choose books from the nonfiction genre. Students may choose to read books that will support their science projects or history projects for the upcoming year. Autobiographies and biographies offer interesting reading material. A reading log must be kept for each book read; parents must sign the log. The reading log and the assignment responses are due the first day of school. Please make sure your name is on each log sheet and the assignment responses. Please do not write on the back of response papers. If you prefer, you may type your responses. A log and assignment response must accompany each book read. Your answers should be complete sentences.

\*\*\*\*Parents,

**Please review and approve your child's choice of reading material.**

**Sixth grade students must read a minimum of 250 pages.** It is the number of pages that is important, not the number of books. We ask that students try to find books on grade level or above.

**Seventh and eighth grade students must read a minimum of 300 pages.**

The students must keep a log and complete the required assignment. If log is complete and the assignment is quality work, it will count as a quiz grade; however, the grade can only help a student, not hinder.

Reading nonfiction has become more vital because colleges now claim that freshmen students are capable of analyzing a fictional short story; however, a vast number of students are not be able to understand complex text. Most middle and high school students choose to read fiction instead of nonfiction; yet nonfiction text is more demanded in classes.

**Why nonfiction for summer reading? The following quotes answer this question.**

**"On average, kids today spend less than 4 minutes a day reading nonfiction<sup>1</sup>."**

**"A study by Marzano<sup>2</sup> underlined that nonfiction reading helps kids develop background knowledge. You might be thinking, "So what?" Well, that same study shows that **background knowledge actually accounts for 33% of the variance in student achievement.**"**

**"Educators now commonly assert that reading more nonfiction early on tremendously helps children reach the appropriate reading levels in later grades. An interesting report from ACT in 2006, *Reading Between the Lines: What the ACT Reveals About College Readiness in Reading*, states that "the clearest differentiator in reading between students who are college ready and students who are not is the ability to comprehend *complex* texts." **According to experts, nonfiction is a great way for kids to develop critical thinking and analytical skills and, you guessed it, the ability to read and understand complex texts.**"**

**Enjoy your summer!**