

Dear BHA Families,

Assalamulaikum parents!

Summer is a time of rest and relaxation, but if used wisely, it can also be a time when your child is able to jump ahead with their skills and increase their reading levels. If your minds are not kept active, summer regression of skills may occur. To help maintain your reading level and develop a life-long love of reading, we encourage you to read as many self-selected books as you can over the summer!

To keep your skills sharp, we are recommending that you read the following books to help you prepare for the units/themes of the upcoming school year. There is one required summer novel for each grade level.

Due Date for Reading the Novel and Journal Assignment: First Week of School

Required Reading for 6th Grade:

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

- As a student entering the Sixth Grade, you are required to read *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. This book will be an integral part of the sixth grade curriculum and students will be held accountable for their reading through discussion, writing and a group project. You are encouraged to take careful notes on this book including character, plot details and a list of at least twenty new and interesting vocabulary words that you have encountered while reading the novel. These notes can be recorded in the three-subject notebook that you will use for English Class.
- In addition, students must complete a Story Summary sheet. Your assignment should look like the following handout. You can complete this handout, type it, or hand-write (neatly, in pen).
- **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE on these responses**---that means you cannot refer to outside sources (Sparknotes, Cliffnotes, etc.), cannot paraphrase or re-word anything from the Internet, receive help from a sibling, parent, or anyone else, or copy another student's work. BHA has a strict academic honesty policy and plagiarism on this assignment WILL result in a zero for the assignment and in 10 demerit points. Teachers want to get to know your level and what you are capable of on your own with these assignments. You would only be doing yourself an injustice by plagiarizing (not to mention starting the year off with a zero). Start the year off right inshallah! (Please see plagiarism contract attached).

Name:

Short Summary Sheet (Be as detailed as you can!)

Title: Maniac Magee

Author: Jerry Spinelli

Setting: _____

Main Characters (include a short description): _____

Summary of plot: _____

Favorite part: _____

Remember this reading is to help you keep up your reading skills during the summer vacation and prevent you from losing those awesome skills you gained in 5th grade! Reading can be a fun way to enjoy your summer break too, all while preparing you for middle school. The following are recommended readings to help you maintain or even increase your reading skill level. These are just suggestions based on the themes and novels for the school year, but you can read what sparks your interest!

6th:

- *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis

- *The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg
- *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier, Christopher Collier
- *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine
- *Charlie & The Chocolate Factory; Boy* by Roald Dahl

I wish you all a safe and happy summer!

Ms. Teresa Lua

Plagiarism Contract

Plagiarism is submitting another person's ideas, words, or images or data without giving that person credit or proper acknowledgement. Plagiarism, a form of academic dishonesty, is tantamount to stealing and will not be tolerated. In order to classify what constitutes plagiarism, you should be aware that you have committed plagiarism when you:

- Use phrases, quotes, or ideas not your own
- Paraphrase the work of another even though you may have changed the wording or syntax
- Use facts or data not considered common knowledge
- Submit a paper written for another class (academic dishonesty)
- Submit a paper or an essay or agency even though you may have paid for it (these papers are usually of low quality)
- Submit a paper by another person even though he or she may have given you permission to use it

Note: Plagiarism not only encompasses written work, but also computer data and research.

Allah loves those who are honest and have good character. Plagiarism is sinful since it is considered stealing and is not a quality of a believer. Furthermore, a person who participates or assists in cheating or plagiarism is also guilty and will be penalized. Teachers must be able to rely on the integrity of a student's work in order to maintain a climate for successful learning. When you are unsure that acknowledgement is needed, ask your teacher. The penalties for plagiarism include the following

- 0% credit for the assignment or test with no opportunity to make up or redo
- Conference with the teacher
- Joint parent/teacher/student conference
- 10 Demerit Points Infraction on Sycamore
- Automatic Exemption from the Incentive Program
- Referral to the Guidance Counselor for counseling
- Referral to the Dean of Student Affairs and/or Principal

Academic Honesty

1. I will do my own work. I will not copy another person's work, in whole or part, and turn it in as my own. I will not receive unfair assistance from another student, parent, the internet, or any other unauthorized source on an assignment that was meant to be completed on my own.
2. During tests I will not talk to other students, look at anyone else's paper, or allow anyone to see my paper. I will not use another student's answers and submit them as my own. I will not arrange to have access to information.
3. I will not consult other unauthorized material or information during tests unless my teacher gives me permission (notes, calculator, etc)
4. I will not plagiarize. I understand that plagiarism is using the words or ideas of other authors in my papers without giving those authors credit. I will not take material from the internet or another person and use it as my own. I will not copy without proper citation.
5. I will follow the direction of my teacher regarding whether it is acceptable to give, receive or ask for help on homework.
6. I will not turn in an original paper or assignment more than once for different classes.
7. I will not plagiarize or cheat, or participate in plagiarism or cheating by sharing my work or providing unwarranted access to materials or information so credit may be wrongly claimed by others.
8. I will do my own homework and submit original work unless otherwise instructed by my teacher.
9. I will not assist others in plagiarizing or cheating.
10. I understand that plagiarism is considered stealing and is a sinful act. I will not displease Allah by participating in academic dishonesty.

Please sign below and return to your English teacher

Student:

I, _____, am aware of the serious nature and consequences of plagiarism and will not intentionally use or submit someone else's work without MLA citation. Furthermore, I will not misrepresent someone else's work as my own.

Student: _____ Signature: _____

Date:

Grade: _____ Section: _____

Parent:

I have read this contract and have discussed it with my son/daughter. I understand the consequences of plagiarism and agree to encourage compliance with the rules stated above.

Parent/Guardian name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: