



St. Joseph Catholic School Summer Reading 2026-2027



Seventh Grade

Due Date for Summer Reading – **Wednesday, August 12, 2026.**

Required Book and Graphic Organizer:

1. All students will read the following book and complete the attached graphic organizer on pages 2-4.

Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere by Julie T. Lamana



Choice Book and Activities:

2. All students will choose **one** book from the following list and complete **one activity from each column on page 5.**

- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Allies* by Alan Gratz
- *Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein
- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery
- *Ranger's Apprentice* by John A. Flanagan
- *Words on Fire* by Jennifer A. Nielson
- *Spy School* by Stuart Gibbs
- *The Van Gogh Deception* by Deron Hicks
- *The Fowl Twins* by Eoin Colfer

Summarizing Your Book

When you tell someone about your day, you include the important people, places, and events but leave out the little details. Similarly, a summary of a story is a brief retelling. It includes only the main characters, setting, conflict, and important events. When reading a story, you might have personal opinions, or feelings, about it. You might also make judgments about the story-whether it's believable, well-written, and so on. Although it's fine to have opinions and make judgments; don't include them in a summary. A summary is supposed to be objective, or tell only the facts.

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer after you read your book. If you are familiar with the five stages of plot, you can use them; or you can use the beginning, middle, and end column to guide your work.

	Plot	Notes
Beginning	<p><u>Exposition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces the setting and the characters • Sets up or hints at the conflict (problem) 	
Middle	<p><u>Rising Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows how the conflict becomes more difficult • Builds suspense 	
	<p><u>Climax</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the most exciting part and a turning point 	
	<p><u>Falling Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eases the tension • Shows how the main character resolves the conflict 	
End	<p><u>Resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reveals how everything turns out • Sometimes ends with a surprise twist 	

Main Character

What makes the characters in a story seem real? It's all in the details. Authors can describe the characters' attitudes, or how they think, act, and feel. They can also describe the characters' motivations, or the reasons for their actions. Often, a character's attitude and motivation changes during a story. As the story unfolds, readers learn more about a character based on how that person responds to events.

Directions: Complete the graphic organizer as you read to show how your character changes throughout the book.

Name of Main Character:

Beginning of Book

What the Main Character Does	Why He/She Does It	What This Shows About Him/Her
Example: Benny takes an ice cream cone from Lisa.	Example: He might think it is funny.	Example: He is not always kind; he likes to play jokes.

Middle of Book

What the Main Character Does	Why He/She Does It	What This Shows About Him/Her

End of Book

What the Main Character Does	Why He/She Does It	What This Shows About Him/Her



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Column One	Column Two	Column Three								
<p style="text-align: center;">Cinquain</p> <p>Cinquains are identification poems. They are short poems designed to capture the “main idea” of a person or concept. Your Task: Write a Cinquain about one of the main characters in your book. Format: Line 1-One Word (Name of Main Character) Line 2-Two words that describe the character Line 3-Three action “ing” words about what the character does Line 4-A four or five word phrase describing the character Line 5-One word that renames the character</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Collage</p> <p>Your Task: Create a picture from pieces of paper and pictures to create an image that represents one of the themes of the book. Examples of themes include Family, Love, Injustice, and Friendship.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Double Entry Journal</p> <p>Your Task: Divide your paper into two columns. Column 1 is for quotations from the book. (They do not have to be things said by the characters. They are simply lines from the book that you are reacting to.) Column 2 is for your reaction to the quotation, including how it connects to your life or how it makes you feel. You should have at least five quotations and responses. Format:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Quotation</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Response</td> </tr> </table>	Quotation	Response						
Quotation	Response									
<p style="text-align: center;">Bio-Poem</p> <p>Your Task: Choose any character from your book to complete the following statements. Format: Line 1-Name Line 2-Three describing words Line 3-Who is from... Line 4-Who cares deeply about... Line 5-Who gives... Line 6-Three more describing words Line 7-Who fears... Line 8-Who would like to see... Line 9 Who is remembered for... Line 10-Name</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comic Book/Storyboard</p> <p>Your Task: Choose one chapter in your book. Then, determine the 8 most important events in that chapter and create an illustrated summary. Each event should have an illustration and a caption. Format:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; height: 40px;"></td> </tr> </table>									<p style="text-align: center;">Newspaper Article</p> <p>Your Task: Write a newspaper article about an event that happens in your book. Format: *Write a headline *Write 1-2 paragraphs that explain the event, including who, what, where, when, how, and why. *Draw a photograph to go with the article with a caption.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Diamante Poem</p> <p>A Diamante poem is used to compare and contrast. It is written in the shape of a diamond. Your Task: Write a Diamante Poem comparing and contrasting the main character and one other character. Format: Line 1-Character 1 Name Line 2-Two words describing character 1 Line 3-Three action words about character 1 Line 4-A four or five-word phrase describing BOTH character 1 and 2 (what they have in common) Line 5-Three action words about character 2 Line 6-Two words describing character 2 Line 7- Character 2 Name</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bumper Sticker</p> <p>Your Task: Create a car bumper sticker with a short statement based on an important event in your book. Before creating your bumper sticker, research bumper stickers that were popular during the time period of your book, if possible. If not, get creative! Your Bumper Sticker should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short statement • Color and one illustration • A design similar to the time period of the book 	<p style="text-align: center;">Verbal Visual Vocabulary</p> <p>Your Task: Choose ten words from your book that you did not already know and complete a box for each containing the following information. Format:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Vocabulary Word</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Definition</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A sentence containing the word</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Illustration of the word.</td> </tr> </table>	Vocabulary Word	Definition	A sentence containing the word	Illustration of the word.				
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