

Summer Reading & Writing

Name: _____

Grading Rubric

****All projects and completed rubrics are due Thursday, August 27th****

6th- will read *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen.

7th- will read *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime Stories from a South African Childhood Adapted for Young Readers* by Trevor Noah.

8th- will read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

All classes will be quizzed on their summer readings during the first week of school.

	4-- Proficient	3-- Developing Proficiency	2-- Emerging Proficiency	1-- Unsatisfactory
Writing Journal	I wrote at least 10 paragraphs this summer. Each paragraph has 5-8 good sentences. Each paragraph has a hook, detailed sentences, and a conclusion. I read over my paragraphs and corrected any mistakes. My paragraphs are examples of my best work.	I wrote at least 10 paragraphs this summer. Each paragraph has 5-8 good sentences. Each paragraph has a hook, detailed sentences, and a conclusion.	I wrote 10 paragraphs this summer.	I did not write 10 paragraphs this summer.

I think I earned a letter grade of _____ on my summer WRITING because...

Teacher Grade: READING

WRITING _____/50

_____/50 Teacher Comments:

Summer Writing Journal—due, Thursday, August 27th!

Instructions: Write a journal entry at least once a week. Each entry should be at least one paragraph long (5-8 GOOD, DETAILED sentences). You should have a **minimum of ten pieces** of complete writing. (This does not mean write ten times in August). You may choose to use the suggested topics below or choose topics of your own. Be as creative as you want. 😊

More information...

- a. Journals can be handwritten or typed. If typed, print it out and put it in a prong folder or presentation folder. Handwritten journals can be kept in composition or spiral notebook.
- b. Do not rush through these writing assignments. Each piece should be an example of quality work. Reread your work and then reread it again later. Make corrections as needed.
- c. Remember to start paragraphs with a “hook” or interesting introductory sentence, include 3-5 detail sentences and end the paragraph with a concluding sentence.
- d. Students know that sentences begin with capital letters and end with punctuation. Students also know that sentences fragments or sentences without a subject and/or predicate are not acceptable. Do not guess how to spell words...look them up or use spell check!
- e. If you do any research, cite your book, newspaper, and/or internet sources. Also, write your findings in your own words. Do not plagiarize!
- f. Make it fun! Write about things you love, activities you enjoy doing, things that matter to YOU.

Writing Topic Suggestions:

- During school breaks, many families embark on vacations. Share your experience of a recent vacation or, if you haven't been on one, describe the dream vacation you'd like your family to take.
- Nature walk reflection: Take a leisurely stroll in nature and document your observations of plants and animals in a well-structured paragraph.
- News article summary: Select a news article and provide a concise summary including the who, what, when, where, why, and how aspects, as relevant.
- Flag Day exploration: Investigate the origins of Flag Day, celebrated on June 14, to gain insights into its historical significance. Write a paragraph explaining why this holiday is commemorated.
- Juneteenth speech: Compose a speech expressing your personal understanding of freedom in commemoration of Juneteenth, a day that marks the end of slavery in the United States in 1865.
- Favorite summer activity: As the first day of summer approaches on June 21, reflect on and describe your preferred summer activity.
- Summer recipe collection: Compile a notebook displaying your beloved summer recipes, complete with detailed instructions and ingredients.
- Movie review: Immerse yourself in the role of a movie critic and write a captivating review of a film, offering your perspective on its merits.
- Fireworks history: With July 4th being Independence Day in the United States, explore the history of fireworks. Pen a paragraph or two to convey your discoveries about this fascinating tradition.

- Postcard design and note: On July 6, the first picture postcard was created. Design a postcard featuring one of your favorite destinations and write a descriptive note to a friend, vividly portraying the place depicted on the postcard. Remember to include greetings, addresses, and a closing.
- Ultimate sugar cookie description: Celebrate "National Sugar Cookie Day" on July 9 by crafting an enticing paragraph that describes the perfect sugar cookie. Engage your reader's senses with tantalizing details about taste, touch, smell, sight, and even sound. Accompany your description with a mouthwatering sketch of this delectable treat.
- Space travel exploration: Reflect on the Apollo 11 mission, which lifted off to the moon on July 16, 1969. Share your perspective on whether humans will ever inhabit the moon, reasons for or against it, the potential economic costs, and the wisdom of allocating resources to this endeavor.
- Disneyland and Disney World: Discuss the opening of Disneyland in 1955 and compare it to the opening of Disney World. Examine which park receives more visitors and share your favorite activities at Disney. Lastly, contemplate the future plans for each park.
- Poem honoring American history: In honor of Francis Scott Key, who wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner," create your own poem commemorating a significant event in American history.
- Characteristics of a great friend: Ponder the qualities that make a friend truly exceptional. Craft a "want ad" describing the traits you seek in a "Great Friend" and highlight the actions and characteristics that define an ideal friendship.
- Smokey the Bear's history: Delve into the story behind Smokey the Bear, the iconic safety-conscious character born on August 9, 1944. Research and write about the historical background of Smokey the Bear.
- Impact of computers and technology: Reflect on the influence of computers and technology on our lives. Explore the ways they have enhanced our daily experiences and consider potential drawbacks or negative impacts they may have caused.