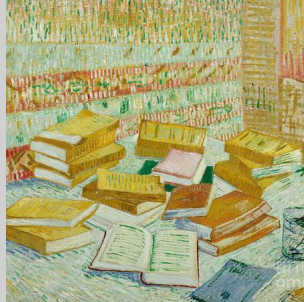


Grades 5th-8th

Summer Reading, the Spelling Bee, and Optional



Activities for Strengthening Skills

The Yellow Books,
by Vincent Van Gogh

Dear Students and Parents,

This document includes both mandatory and optional activities for the summer. Before jumping in, we'd like to remind you of some of our English Language Arts programming philosophies:

- ★ Helping students build good reading habits which result in being better prepared for meaningful analysis, reducing the need for remediation
- ★ Strong emphasis on learning grammar and building vocabulary, fundamental for great reading and writing abilities
- ★ Keeping our eye on end goals—skills built over time that we'd like to see YCQ's graduates take with them to high school
- ★ Increasing the amount of quality classical literature
- ★ Emphasis on good penmanship, increasing reading comprehension and critical thinking
- ★ Alignment of teaching six core writing skills for analyzing, evaluating and persuading:
 - 1) writing clear, focused introductions; 2) using precise details; 3) using appropriate and detailed support for answers; 4) using smooth transitional words and phrases; 5) using a variety of words, phrases, and sentence types; 6) using proper punctuation, spelling, and capitalization

In addition to the above, teachers collaborate routinely and share ideas, pushing each other to grow, to make learning engaging, and to maintain consistency so that each of our students moves from one grade to another, all having learned the same skills.

Grades 5th-8th

At the end of this document, you'll find optional activities which align with our current curriculum mission.

Summer READING (Mandatory)

Students who will enter 5th through 8th grade in the fall will read the book assigned to their grade (listed below). We encourage reading more than one book, of course. One, however, is required. **Students will take a reading test on the second day of school in September.** The test will count toward students' overall literacy or ELA grade.

We recommend creating a comfortable and quiet reading space for yourself. Try reading under a tree. Create a little fortress in your bedroom. Get a special reading lamp. Consider creating your own reading club so that you can discuss interesting parts of your book with friends. *Note that incoming 5th and 6th graders have the same book this year. Next year, incoming 6th graders will read a different book.

BOOK ASSIGNMENTS:

4th going into 5th: *The City of Ember*, by Jeanne DuPrau (Same as 5th for this year).

5th going into 6th: *The City of Ember*, by Jeanne DuPrau

6th going into 7th: *Fish in a Tree*, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

7th going into 8th: *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London

Continued...

Grades 5th-8th

The SPELLING BEE (Optional)



2024 Spelling Bee Art Award
Winner Abigail Abayev

Review the vocabulary/spelling list attached for your grade; YCQ will run its 3rd annual school-wide spelling bee in the fall. This year, our top speller will represent our school in the Scripps spelling bee's regional competition in Queens. The spelling bee is optional; however, the attached vocabulary and spelling are part of our ELA program. Taking the time to review the lists and learn about the words will help improve academic performance and grades—across all general studies subjects. We've also sent out spelling words provided by Scripps.

We recommend choosing 5-10 words per week to focus on.

Look up definitions, antonyms, and synonyms. Investigate origins and roots. Listen to each word's pronunciation by using Google—simply type “How to pronounce” along with the word into the search window and a pronunciation tool will pop up.

Practice spelling the words—in writing and speaking—especially if you intend to enter the spelling bee.

And don't forget that a school-wide competition will launch in the fall for the design of this year's spelling bee overall winners! If you're artistic, get out your art supplies and get creative with images of bees, words, and all things related to spelling bees (the

Grades 5th-8th

stage, the mic, the students, the individual letters...). YCQ will send information and guidelines for entry just prior to the start of the school year.

Practice for Strengthening ELA Skills (Optional)

Click here for suggested activities: [ELA Skill Builders](#)

We hope that these activities help to get you off to a good start in the fall.

Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Melissa Cohen
Associate Principal of General Studies, K-8

Ms. Paula Ambagtsheer
Director of Curriculum and Instruction, K-8