



Dear Middle School Students,

You did it! You finished strong this academic year of 2024-2025! Summer vacation starts in a few days and you can enjoy sleeping in later, hanging out with friends more, enjoying the summer sunshine, and not wearing a uniform.

Summer ELA Work is given to help you keep your reading and writing skills sharp and strong as you prepare for the new school year in the next grade. Did you know that there is something called the summer slide? It's the decline in reading and writing skills that occurs over the summer when students are not in school and stop reading and writing on a daily basis. By writing and reading throughout these vacation months, you will keep your ELA skills sharp and ready for the start of classes in September.

Please carefully read through the directions and expectations for the ELA summer work. I encourage you to complete the work a little bit at a time over the course of the summer. Set a goal to have some work completed by the end of June, July, and August so that you won't be scrambling the week before school starts. Please bring your booklet with your written work or the printed document back to school in September. It will count as a portion of your ELA grade for the first trimester.

Have a great summer filled with amazing adventures!

Miss Kelly Sawyer,  
Middle School ELA Teacher on the Lynn Campus  
Email: [ksawyer@nschristian.org](mailto:ksawyer@nschristian.org)



## Writing Guidelines

### Option 1: Handwritten Responses

➤ Guidelines: legible writing using pencil in the provided blue notebook, label at the top of the page Summary or Response #. Please erase any corrections before writing correct spelling.

### Option 2: Typed Responses

➤ Formatting Guidelines:

- Entire document: margins 1 inch, double spaced, font size 14, portrait orientation
- Heading = Name, Grade in September, and Date – align right
- Body: align left, indent each paragraph

## Assignment #1 – Read Book and Write a Summary

This summer, choose a book from the list below that interests you—any genre, any author, as long as it's a good fit for your reading level. As you read, pay close attention to the characters, setting, and plot. After finishing your book, respond to the following writing prompt in a well-organized short essay (5–7 sentences per section).

**Section 1 Main Characters:** Who are the most important characters in the story? What are they like? Describe their personality, actions, and any changes they go through.

**Section 2 Setting:** Where and when does the story take place? How does the setting affect the events or mood of the story?

**Section 3 Problem or Conflict:** What is the main problem or challenge the main character faces? Why is this problem important in the story?

**Section 4 Resolution:** How is the conflict or problem solved? What does the main character learn or realize by the end of the book?

### Helpful Tips:

- Use specific details from the book to support your answers.
- Write in complete sentences and use paragraphs to organize your ideas.
- Proofread your work before submitting (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling).

## Book List (select one to read)

- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- Biography from the Christian Heroes Then & Now Series published by YWAM
- Biography from the Heroes of History Books Series published by Emerald Press
- Biography from the Trailblazers Series published by Christian Focus
- Book from the Anne of Green Gables Series by Lucy Maud Montgomery
- Book from the City Spies Series by James Ponti
- Book from the Horatio Hornblower Series by C.S. Forester
- Book from the Lord of the Rings Trilogy or the Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
- Book from the Wingfeather Saga Series by Andrew Peterson
- Book from the Wings of Fire Series by Tui T. Sutherland
- *I am Regina* by Sally M. Keehn
- *Johnny Tremain* by Ester Forbes
- *Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood
- *Little Women* or *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott
- *M.C. Higgins the Great* by Virginia Hamilton
- *My Friend Flicka* by Mary O'Hara
- *Rebellion 1776* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare
- *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau
- *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White
- *The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Watership Down* by Richard Adam
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

➤ Other books at or above your grade level may be read after receiving approval. Please email Miss Sawyer ([ksawyer@nschristian.org](mailto:ksawyer@nschristian.org)) and provide the title and author.

## Assignment #2 – Quick Write Journal Responses

➤ **Directions:** Select six prompts from the list below and compose a response by writing for 10 minutes for each prompt. After the 10 minutes have concluded go back and review/revise your work and check for the following:

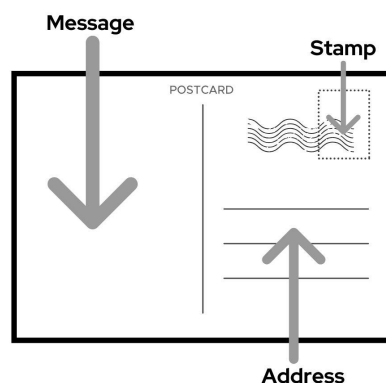
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Spelling
- Strong verbs
- Descriptive adjectives and adverbs

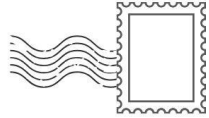
### Writing Prompts (select 6 for your required written/typed responses)

- A beach ball washes up on shore with a secret message inside. What does it say?
- Convince your friend to read your favorite summer book.
- Convince your parents to let you stay up as late as you want during summer break.
- Describe the sounds of summer. Be creative and vivid.
- Describe what a summer sunset looks like, sounds like, and feels like.
- Describe your favorite frozen treat in detail. Make the reader crave it.
- Describe your perfect summer day using all five senses.
- Do you think students should have summer homework? Why or why not?
- List 3 things every kid should do during summer and explain why.
- Should kids be allowed to have unlimited screen time during summer? Why or why not?
- Tell the story of a summer adventure that turned out to be unforgettable.
- What's something you want to get better at this summer? Why?
- What's the best summer memory you've ever had? Why is it so special?
- Which is better: a summer at the beach or in the mountains? Defend your choice.
- Write about a time you got caught in a summer rainstorm. What happened?
- Write about a time you tried something new over the summer.
- Write a short guide on how to make the best s'more.
- Write a story that starts with: "I never thought I'd end up here..."
- You discover a hidden door in your backyard or at the park. Where does it lead?
- You've been hired to design a brand-new water park. What's it like?

### Send Miss Sawyer a Postcard (each postcard counts as 1 writing response)

- Purchase or create a postcard using a 4x6 index card
- Write a note to Miss Sawyer describing how your summer is going, a recent trip that you took, or a summer camp you attended.
- Address your postcard as indicated.



POSTCARD	
<i>Dear Miss Sawyer,</i>	
	North Shore Christian School
	Attn: Miss Sawyer
	26 Urban Street
	Lynn, MA 01904
<i>From,</i> <i>Student Name</i>	