



Dear Middle School Students,

You did it! You finished strong this academic year of 2025-2026! Summer vacation begins next week and you can enjoy a more relaxed routine and a variety of fun summer activities and adventures.

Summer is a great time to relax, have fun, and enjoy a break from school, but it is also important to keep your ELA skills fresh. Spending a little time reading, writing, and practicing vocabulary each week will help you stay sharp and ready for the new school year. The more you practice over the summer, the less time we will need to spend reviewing old skills in the fall, allowing us to jump into new and exciting learning right away. A little effort now can make a big difference later!

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 materials 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



Assignment #1 – Read and Annotate in Assigned Book

This summer, you will receive a book that is yours to keep and write in. As you read, use annotations or notes to mark important events, interesting details, questions you have, and evidence from the text. Writing in your book will help you think more deeply about what you are reading and stay engaged with the story. When we return to school in September, we will use these books as a starting point for class discussions and activities. Be sure to bring your book back to school with your notes and annotations so you are ready to share your thoughts with the class.

Rising 5th and 6th Graders: A Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullalay Hunt

1. **Annotate** places where a character experiences a strong emotion.
 - Write an emotion symbol in the margin and note what caused the feeling.
2. **Identify** 5 important quotes that help the reader understand an important lesson.
 - Write a star next to the underlined quote and then explain why the quote is important.

Rising 7th and 8th Graders: The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

1. **In each chapter, identify** moments when William learns something new from school, books, other people, or personal experience.
 - Mark the passage with a book symbol in the margin.
 - Note in the margin:
 - What did William learn?
 - How did this knowledge influence a decision or action?
2. **Identify five moments** when William thinks differently from those around him.
 - Mark the passage with a light bulb symbol in the margin.
 - Note in the margin:
 - What idea or belief makes William's thinking unique?
 - How does this perspective help him solve a problem?

Written Response Guidelines for Assignment #2

Please bring your written responses to school with you in September

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 the 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 #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:

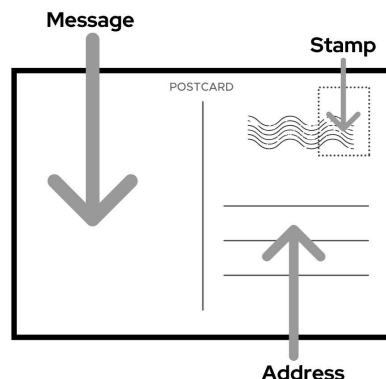
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Spelling
- Strong verbs
- Descriptive adjectives and adverbs

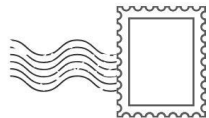
Writing Prompts (select 6 for your required written/typed responses)

1. A beach ball washes up on shore with a secret message inside. What does it say?
2. Convince your friend to read your favorite summer book.
3. Convince your parents to let you stay up as late as you want during summer break.
4. Describe the sounds of summer. Be creative and vivid.
5. Describe what a summer sunset looks like, sounds like, and feels like.
6. Describe your favorite frozen treat in detail. Make the reader crave it.
7. Describe your perfect summer day using all five senses.
8. Do you think students should have summer homework? Why or why not?
9. List 3 things every kid should do during summer and explain why.
10. Should kids be allowed to have unlimited screen time during summer? Why or why not?
11. Tell the story of a summer adventure that turned out to be unforgettable.
12. What's something you want to get better at this summer? Why?
13. What's the best summer memory you've ever had? Why is it so special?
14. Which is better: a summer at the beach or in the mountains? Defend your choice.
15. Write about a time you got caught in a summer rainstorm. What happened?
16. Write about a time you tried something new over the summer.
17. Write a short guide on how to make the best s'more.
18. Write a story that starts with: "I never thought I'd end up here..."
19. You discover a hidden door in your backyard or at the park. Where does it lead?
20. 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>	