

Alhuda Academy 2018-2019 Summer Reading



For Students Entering SIXTH, SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADES

Asalaamu Alaikum from Alhuda Academy. This is our Summer Reading Program. We have used the Worcester Public School system as a guide to create this program for students at Alhuda Academy.

Our intent is to nurture both the habits of good reading and the love of reading for the sake of reading. **Summer reading is required** of our students. **The following document lays out required reading as well as optional.**

Please note that English literature may have themes or content that some parents find inappropriate for their children. Please review options with your child and choose the book you find most suitable to your child's maturity level, interests, and personality.

Ask a librarian for help in locating the books.

Summer Reading is a requirement:

- Choose to read any three books
- You **MUST complete** the Letters About Literature assignment for at least **one** of the books you read
- You **MUST choose** at least one Islamically-themed book and one classic literature book from the following lists
- You may choose any one book you select, at your grade/age level
- Complete **your choice of other assignments for the remaining two books**
- Each of the three assignments will be counted as a separate test grade in the first quarter of the school year

You can find books in Worcester!

Borrow a book:

Go to the Worcester Public Library
3 Salem Street Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 799-1655
www.worcpublic.org

Frances Perkins Branch Library
470 W. Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606
(508) 799-1687
Bus route 30N

Great Brook Valley Branch
89 Tacoma Street
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 799-1729
Bus Route 26N

Make sure you return borrowed books on time and undamaged!!

Buy a new book:

- Amazon.com
- Barnes and Nobles Bookstore, 541 Lincoln St.
- Benjamin Franklin Bookstore, Salem St.
- Sam's Warehouse or BJs
- Walmart, Target

Islamic Books

- www.astrolabe.com
- www.islamicity.com/bazar
- www.dar-us-salam.com
- www.goodwordbooks.com

Buy a used book:

- Friends of the Library Bookstore, Salem St.
- Goodwill, 25 Park Ave
- Salvation Army, 72 Cambridge St.

Summer Reading Assignments:

Three books are required. One of the books must be from the following list:

Author	Title	Overview
Tahan, Malba	The Man Who Counted: a Collection of Mathematical Adventures	Beremiz Samir, the man who counted, summons his extraordinary mathematical powers to settle disputes, give wise advice, and overcome dangerous enemies on the way to Damascus in the 10th century. Unfortunately the only mathematicians who are praised are the Greeks.
Ouida Sebesstyen	Words by Heart	Lena's family is new and the only black family in town. She struggles to make her father proud by winning a Bible quoting contest. But she learns by the end of the book that it is true Christian belief and action – helping and forgiving the one who shot her father – that makes him proud. A good book for Muslims to learn about Christianity and the values that we share.
Ibtisam Barakat	Tasting the Sky	This is the memoir of a Palestinian who recalls her terrifying and humiliating experiences as a child growing up in occupied Palestine, including having to leave her family home and visiting friends in a refugee camp. Her love of reading and writing give her hope and a future.

Alexander Lloyd	The Jedera Adventure	This exciting adventure of an 18-yr old heroine takes place during the 1850s in the country of Jedera, which is a thinly disguised Mali. Timely remarks by the heroine's guardian tell the reader that there are good things and bad things, good people and bad in both Jedera and the heroine's home in Philadelphia. Her destination in Mali is the famous library (of real Timbuktu) where she returns a valuable copy of a book of medicinal herbs by Ibn Sina.
Baillie, Allan	Little Brother	Vithy's older brother rescues him from the vicious Khmer Rouge soldiers, but then they lose each other in the wild jungle. Vithy survives by remembering what he has learned from his father and from his brother, and learning who he can trust as he struggles to find his brother and the border in order to make it out of Cambodia.
Laurence Yep	Dragonwings	In this historical fiction, an 8-yr old boy goes to live with his father in San Francisco Chinatown in about 1900, when the Chinese were greatly discriminated against. An excellent book to use in the classroom for discussion about living under adverse conditions, the importance of family, and the importance of character.
Myers, Walter Dean	Now is Your Time!: The African-American Struggle for Freedom	A nonfiction account from Muslim empires in Africa to slavery in America up to the modern Civil Rights Movement, told through the biographies of real African Americans. The several references to Muslims and/or Islam are positive, and the first personal story is told of Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim, the Muslim prince who was a slave in Mississippi
Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Mealer	The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind	This is an autobiography of a teenage boy in Malawi who teaches himself about electricity and builds a windmill out of scraps that provides electricity for lights in his village home. It is an inspiring story of what someone can do even if he has little education and absolutely no money.
Wilson, Eva	Islamic Designs for Artists and Craftspeople	This is both a book of Islamic designs identified by country of origin and century and a pattern book that illustrates the geometric shapes used in particular designs.

Ruelle, Karen Gray	The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews during the Holocaust	It is unfortunate that this factual and important event is put into a picture book that looks like it is for young children. Every Muslim and non Muslim should read this book, and it should be discussed in school. The Muslims of Paris helped the Jews, as good Muslims should, when their lives were threatened by the Nazis. It is told as a documentary, using what the few accounts that survived reveal about what was done and how the Muslims were able to help so many Jews.
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Of the three books, you MUST read at least ONE of the following "Classic" books.

PARENTS: Please review the abstract for any of these books on amazon.com and help choose the book(s) you feel are *most appropriate* for your child. Please note that all English Literature at Middle School level and above *may contain mature themes* and you should use your best judgment when helping your child select a book.

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
<u>Swift, Jonathan, GULLIVER'S TRAVELS</u>	<u>London, Jack, THE CALL OF THE WILD</u>	<u>Wells, H.G., THE WAR OF THE WORLDS</u>
<u>Sewell, Anna, BLACK BEAUTY</u>	<u>Keller, Helen, THE STORY OF MY LIFE</u>	<u>Steinbeck, John, THE PEARL</u>
<u>O'Hara, Mary, MY FRIEND FLICKA</u>	<u>Dumas, Alexandre, THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO</u>	<u>Dickens, Charles, A TALE OF TWO CITIES</u>
<u>Gipson, Fred, OLD YELLER</u>	<u>Dickens, Charles, DAVID COPPERFIELD</u>	<u>Crane, Stephen, THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE</u>
<u>Farley, Walther, THE BLACK STALLION</u>	<u>Adams, Richard, WATERSHIP DOWN</u>	<u>Bronte, Charlotte, JANE EYRE</u>
<u>Dumas, Alexandre, THE THREE MUSEKETEERS</u>	<u>Verne, Jules. JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH</u>	<u>Frank, Anne. THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL</u>
<u>Dickens, Charles, OLIVER TWIST</u>	<u>Twain, Mark. THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN</u>	<u>Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOMES</u>
<u>Adams, Richard, WATERSHIP DOWN (challenging)</u>	<u>Stevenson, Robert Louis. TREASURE ISLAND</u>	<u>Defoe, Daniel. ROBINSON CRUSOE (easy)</u>
<u>Twain, Mark. THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN</u>	<u>Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. THE YEARLING</u>	<u>Cooper, James Fenimore. THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS</u>

<u>Stevenson, Robert Louis. TREASURE ISLAND</u>	<u>Lewis, C.S. THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE (easy)</u>	<u>Tolkien, J.R.R. The Lord of the Rings trilogy: The Fellowship of the Ring; The Two Towers; The Return of the King</u>
<u>Spyri, Johanna. HEIDI</u>	<u>Grahame, Kenneth. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.</u>	<u>Verne, Jules. Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</u>
<u>Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. THE YEARLING</u>	<u>Frank, Anne. THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL</u>	<u>Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (easy)</u>
<u>Montgomery, L.M. ANNE OF GREEN GABLES</u>	<u>Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOMES</u>	<u>Steinbeck, John. The Grapes of Wrath .(challenging)</u>
<u>Lewis, C.S. THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE</u>	<u>Defoe, Daniel. ROBINSON CRUSOE</u>	<u>Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451</u>
<u>Grahame, Kenneth. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS.</u>	<u>Alcott, Louisa May. LITTLE MEN</u>	<u>James Herriot. All Creatures Great and Small (easy)</u>
<u>Irving, Washington. Rip Van Wrinkle, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Other Tales</u>	<u>Washington, Booker T. Up From Slavery</u>	Iliad by Homer (translation by Robert Fitzgerald)
<u>Picard, Barbara Leonie. The Iliad of Homer</u>	<u>Picard, Barbara Leonie. The Iliad of Homer</u>	<u>H.G. Wells. Invisible Man.</u>
<u>Rawls, Wilson. Where the Red Fern Grows</u>	<u>Verne, Jules. Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</u>	<u>Ray Bradbury. Martian Chronicles (challenging)</u>
<u>Wyss, Johann David. The Swiss Family Robinson</u>	<u>Rawls, Wilson. Where the Red Fern Grows</u>	<u>Ernest Hemingway. Old Man and the Sea (challenging)</u>
<u>James Herriot. All Creatures Great and Small (challenging)</u>	<u>Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</u>	
Hobbit There and Back Again by J. R. R. Tolkien	<u>Wyss, Johann David. The Swiss Family Robinson</u>	
	<u>James Herriot. All Creatures Great and Small</u>	

The third book can be a book of your choice appropriate for age level. Please use library guidelines to determine the appropriate age/grade level.

Summer Reading Assignments

For each of the books you read this summer, choose a different assignment from the choices listed below. The “Letters about Literature” assignment is MANDATORY for at least one book you read. You may also choose to simply take a comprehension test in place of completing an assignment.

Each of these assignments will be due in the second week of school once students return to Alhuda Academy. Reading should be complete before the start of school.

REQUIRED: Letters About Literature

Write a letter to the author telling him/her how this book impacted you as a person. What influence did it have on your life? How did it make you feel? Why is this book important? Write the letter using proper letter-writing format. Think deeply before you write and try your best to be personal and insightful in your writing.

In the News

Create the front page of a newspaper that tells about events, characters and setting of the book you just read. The title, articles, and illustrations of the newspaper should be appropriate to the time when the story took place. You could include weather reports, editorials, cartoons etc.

Be a Star

Using a video camera or webcam, create a script for your favorite part of the book and then, using a video camera or webcam, record yourself and/or others, acting out your favorite part. Be sure you are dressed as your character and try to make the setting similar to the book. At the end, summarize the book and tell why the scene you acted out is your favorite. You may do this with the camera or you may write it on paper.

Take a Comprehension Test

Students may opt to take a comprehension test on the book they have read, which will be administered in the second week of school once students return.

Tips to Help your Child Enjoy Reading:

Set the PACE!

Lead by example. Let your child see YOU reading each day.

Find a PLACE!

Provide a space in your home with lots of different reading materials like books, newspapers, magazines, travel brochures, a dictionary, and/or a thesaurus.

Don't make it HARD!

Find time to read. Share a book with your children. Keep one with you in the car or your purse so that you can read and discuss while you are out and about.

Get a Library Card!

The library is full of FREE reading opportunities and offers a quiet, air conditioned place to share a book!