



**Valwood Middle School  
Summer Reading 2011**

**Grade 6**

Summer of the Monkeys Wilson Rawls

Choose **one** of the following projects to complete for Summer of the Monkeys. This project is due on Monday, August 15. If you have any questions, you mail email me at [lamarshall@valwood.org](mailto:lamarshall@valwood.org). I hope you enjoy the book and the project.

1. Using a 5X8 index card, create a business card for Jay Berry that includes an appropriate company name or slogan, Jay Berry's complete name, his job title, his address, phone number, and email. Personalize the card with a small illustration that relates to the job. On the back, explain why you chose this particular job for Jay Berry, using facts and information about him that you learned from the book. Write your name on the back of the business card.
2. Write a letter to the author of the book, telling him what you liked about the book, what you didn't like, etc. Be very specific and cite specific incidents from the book. Your letter must use the correct format for a friendly letter.
3. Sequentially list five **major** events that take place in the book and describe the details of the event. Cut six footprints from construction paper. Put the title and author on the first footprint. The remaining footprints will have one of your events and its description written on them and should be numbered in the order the events occurred in the story. Decorate at least two footprints with an illustration of the event described. Put your footprints in order on a poster board and write your name on the back of the board.
4. On a blank piece of paper, draw a picture of an event that occurred between two characters in the book. Give your picture an appropriate title. On the back, describe the two characters in detail. Next describe the relationship those two characters. Be specific and cite specific evidence from the book.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Geography** -The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs by Betty G. Birney. Available from Amazon in paperback and Kindle.

**Grade 7**

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

As you read, record the clues in each chapter. At the end of each chapter predict what will happen next.

Answer these questions: What is the crime? Who are the suspects? What is the evidence? Go to <http://kids.mysterynet.com> click on Solve it. Solve one mystery and write your solution down.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Make a list of problems that legal immigrants could have while assimilating to their new country. Compare and contrast Esperanza's life in Mexico and in the United States.

### **Grade 8 (select 2)**

Summer of My German Soldier Bette Green

The Devil's Arithmetic Jane Yolen

Goodbye Vietnam Gloria Whelan

The Watsons Go To Birmingham Christopher Paul Curtis

Year Down Yonder Richard Peck

Let the Circle Be Unbroken Mildred Taylor

Roll of Thunder, Hear Me Cry Mildred Taylor

Out of Dust Karen Hesse

**Choose one** of the following projects to complete for **one of your books**. This project is due on Monday, August 15.

1. Write a letter to the author of the book. Tell him/her what you liked about the book, what you did not like, etc. Be very specific.
2. Write a journal entry in which you pretend to be the main character after a conflict. Next, reflect in writing how you might respond differently to the same type of conflict in your own life.
3. Explain the significance of the title of the book. Next, rename your book. Explain why you chose this new title over the existing one.
4. Describe the setting of the novel. Draw a picture of the setting to accompany your description. Find five things that happened in the world during the period of time that your book takes place.
5. Write a letter to a character in the book. Make sure your letter is meaningful and relates to the book.
6. Describe two of the main characters in the book. Next, describe the relationship between the two characters.

For the other book you read, do the following:

Write a one page summary of the book. Include what makes the book "historical fiction."

I hope you enjoy the books that you read this summer. If you have any questions, email me at [vblanton@valwood.org](mailto:vblanton@valwood.org). I am looking forward to a great year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade American Studies.