

Third Form (Grade 6) Summer Reading

Students are expected to read three books during the summer. *A Single Shard* and *All the Way Home* are required, and students will be tested on them when they return in the fall. They are not to write reports on these two required books. The third book, on which they write a report, may be chosen from the list provided on the Eaglebrook school website, or the student may substitute another title with their parents' approval. They will write a report on this book. This report will be the first graded assignment of the first trimester. The report should answer the following questions:

1. What similar problems or struggles do the main characters face and how do they respond to them? Are they successful?
2. What new perspectives or points of view does the book offer on the subject or events with which it deals?
3. What are the major events of the plot? Is there more than one important plot?
4. What minor characters figure importantly in the story? How do these characters interact with the main character?
5. What aspects of the setting and its description seem important and recur throughout the story?

After answering these questions about the book, the student will write the following essay. In answering both aspects of the question, use specific details and explain them fully.

Essay Question - Describe the main character's growth and development as it results from the challenges that he or she faces in the beginning, middle, and end of the book. Next, compare the main character's challenges to a similar situation you can recall in your own life, in another novel, or in an actual event. Do not simply summarize the plot.

Eaglebrook School Summer Reading Program

Books for incoming Third Formers (Grade 6)

Required Books

The following books are required reading. Students will be tested on these books when they return in the fall. The test will be their first test grade for the year:

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

All the Way Home by Patricia Reilly Giff

Both of these books involve the lives of orphans and journeys they make in order to achieve a goal.

Choice Books

The following is a list of books students should choose from for their book report book. Parents may approve a different book for their student if they like:

The Cay, by Theodore Taylor. An adventure novel about a blind boy and a black ma, which includes themes of prejudice, love, and survival.

The Eagle of the Ninth, by Rosemary Sutcliff. A stirring tale of Roman Britain. It has themes of loss, betrayal, friendship, and change.

Holes, by Louis Sachar. A funny story of growing up a bad boy with themes of friendship and compassion.

The Lightning Thief, by Rich Riordan. Ironic adventure quest. This fantasy involves the Greek gods and a troubled boy looking to make sense of his confusing life.

Number the Stars, by Lois Lowry. This book is a fictional version of a true story. It tells about the Danish resistance and the efforts to save Danish Jews from Hitler.

The Secret Garden, by Francis Hodgson Burnett. Set in Victorian England, this is the story of an orphaned girl and her neglected and disabled cousin. It explores themes of loss and renewal and has strong, distinct characters.

The Thief, by Megan Whalen Turner. This is a fantasy adventure told with wit and philosophy. This book explores the importance of honesty.

Tuck Everlasting, by Natalie Babbit. This is a bittersweet story of the advantage of everlasting life and of its downside.

The Watsons Go To Birmingham, by Christopher Paul Curtis. This is a fictional account of an African American family's involvement in the civil rights movement. It speaks to the issues of inclusion and rights.

Inkheart, by Cornelia Funke. Inkheart is a fantasy involving the ability to make characters from books come to life. It deals with issues of loss, choice, and family.

Graveyard Story, by Neil Gaiman. This book is a gothic fantasy and an allegory of childhood and was inspired by *The Jungle Book's* Mowgli stories.