



Logic School Summer Reading 2026

It has been said, “*Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.*” The school year has ended, but good reading habits should be a consistent part of our daily routine as we head into summer. With that in mind, we begin our Oakdale Academy Summer Reading Program.

Purpose

The works of literature on the Logic School summer reading list have been carefully selected to help prepare students for what they will encounter in their history and literature courses in the fall, as well as to build on the subject material that they have previously studied.

Summer reading not only fosters the reading of good books that promote character, truth, and wisdom and that are good for the soul, it also provides students with a shared experience that can serve as a reference point for discussion and writing in the coming school year, and that reinforces Oakdale Academy’s mission to instruct students in the Western tradition.

Logic School students will be required to read ***one of the books*** from the list below for the grade level they are entering in the fall. These books may be available from the local library, or they can be purchased from local bookstores or online.

Assessment

When finished reading their chosen book, students must write a book report that follows the provided guidelines and format. Book reports should be handed in to individual homeroom teachers on Thursday, August 27, by 8:15 a.m.

Students should choose **one book** from their grade level.

- **5th**
 - *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
 - *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
 - *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- **6th**
 - *Otto of the Silver Hand* by Howard Pyle
 - *Rolf and the Viking Bow* by Allen French
 - *Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff
- **7th**
 - *Calico Captive* by Elizabeth George Speare
 - *Knight of the White Cross* by George Alfred Henty
 - *Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann David Wyss
- **8th**
 - *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne
 - *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy
 - *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Rising 5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026

When you have finished reading your chosen book, you must write a book report that follows the guidelines and format provided on the following pages (as practiced in your *Discoveries in Writing* text in fourth grade).

Paragraph 1: General Information, Characters, and Setting

- Title
- Author of the book
- Genre of the book
- Who is in the story?
- What are they like?
- When does it happen?
- Where do they live/go?

Paragraph 2: Conflict or Problem

- What do the characters need or want?
- What do the characters think and say?
- What do the characters do? How do they act?
- What important events happen before the climax?

Paragraph 3: Climax and Resolution

- What is the climax?
- What happens as a result?
- How is the conflict or problem in the story resolved?
- What is learned (message, moral)?

Paragraph 4: Recommendation

- What was your impression of the book?
- Would you recommend this book to others?
- Why or why not would you recommend it?
- Provide details and examples.

Rising 5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Checklist

Structure

- Proper heading in upper left-hand corner (see example provided)
- Composition double-spaced
- Title centered and repeats 2-3 key words from final sentence
- Clincher sentences repeat or reflect 2-3 key words of central fact

Style

Dress-ups

¶1 ¶2 ¶3 ¶4

- ly adverb
- who/which clause
- strong verb
- because clause
- quality adjective

Reminder: underline the adverb, verb, adjective, who/which, because

Check for banned words: see/saw, say/said, go/went, think/thought, good, bad, big, small,

Mechanics

- Capitalization
- Spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- Complete sentences (Does it make sense?)

Examples of required clauses:

- Who/Which Clause
 - The Pilgrims, who lived in the crowded ship, finally reached America.
 - The boy ran to his mother, who gave him a hug.
 - The bridge, which was narrow, allowed them to cross to safety.
 - William Penn had smallpox, which caused him to lose all his hair.
- Because Clause
 - The Pilgrims became seasick because the ship rocked in the rough sea.
 - Because the ship rocked in the rough sea, the Pilgrims became seasick.
 - The dog howled because the rooster was crowing loudly.

Rising 5th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Formatting Guidelines

Handwritten Reports:

- Final drafts should be written in your neatest cursive handwriting.
- Your heading should be on the top left corner of the page and should include:
 - Your name
 - Your teacher's name
 - Subject and grade (English 5)
 - The date you submit your paper
- Title should be centered on the page, below the heading
- Book titles within the report should be underlined when written by hand.
- Write on only the FRONT side of each page.
- Reports need to be double-spaced.

Typed Reports:

- Approved fonts include Calibri, Arial, Garamond, or Times New Roman.
- Font must be size 12.
- Title should be centered on the page, below the heading, size 12 font.
- Reports need to be double-spaced.
- Book titles must be italicized when typed.
- Your heading should be on the top left corner of the page and should include:
 - Your name
 - Your teacher's name
 - Subject and grade (English 5)
 - The date you submit your paper

General Guidelines:

- Use your own creative title. The title should repeat two to three key words from the final sentence.
- Be sure to edit your final report checking for grammatical, spelling, and capitalization errors.
- Be sure to use interesting sentences beginning them in a variety of ways and using vivid words and descriptions.
- Your work must be your own. Any use of AI for topic generation or sentence formation is prohibited and cause for a zero. Exception allowed for spellcheck.

Book Reports must be submitted by 8:15 on the morning of the day they are due.

Late reports will lose 10% for every day they are late.

Rising 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Due Date: Thursday, August 27, 2026

When you have finished reading your chosen book, you must write a book report that follows the guidelines and format provided on the following pages.

Paragraph 1: Important information about the book.

- At least 5 sentences
- Title of the book (underline or italicize it)
- Author of the book
- Genre of the book
- Setting of the book including time and place (give some details)
- Avoid using personal pronouns (e.g. “my book”)

Paragraph 2: Summary of the plot

- 10-15 sentences
- Include the important events throughout the *entire* novel that form the main plot including the conflict, and resolution. Major characters should be mentioned in this section as well.
- Avoid using 1st and 2nd person pronouns (“I”, “me”, “you”, “we”, “us”)

Paragraph 3: Character Sketch

- 7-10 sentences
- Describe the main character in your book.
- Include basic information such as age and physical appearance. Describe his/her personality, character qualities, important actions, motivations.
- Include lessons the character learned and how he or she shows growth throughout the novel.
- Include specific details from the book as well as quotes which support your character sketch.
- Avoid using 1st and 2nd person pronouns (“I”, “me”, “you”, “we”, “us”)

Paragraph 4: Recommendation

- at least 5 sentences
- Tell whether you would recommend this book for other people to read.
- Explain the reasons why you would recommend or not recommend this book.
- Be as specific as possible. Do not just say “I liked this book.” Provide reasons and details from the book which provide support for your thoughts.
- Personal pronouns may be used in this paragraph.

Rising 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Formatting Guidelines

Handwritten Reports:

- Final drafts should be written in your neatest cursive handwriting.
- Your heading should be on the top left corner of the front page and should include:
 - Your name
 - Your teacher's name
 - Subject and grade (English 6)
 - The date you submit your paper
- Title should be centered on the page, below the heading.
- Book titles within the report should be underlined when written by hand.
- Do NOT skip lines on the final draft.
- Write on only the FRONT side of each page.

Typed Reports:

- Approved fonts include Calibri, Arial, Garamond, or Times New Roman.
- Font must be size 12.
- Title should be centered on the page, below the heading, size 12 font.
- Reports need to be double-spaced.
- Book titles must be italicized when typed.
- Your heading should be on the top left corner of the front page and should include:
 - Your name
 - Your teacher's name
 - Subject and grade (English 6)
 - The date you submit your paper
- Put your last name and insert the page number into the header (e.g. Lashar 1).
 - The page number should change with each new page.

General Guidelines:

- Use your own creative title. The title should repeat two to three key words from the final sentence.
- Be sure to edit your final report checking for grammatical, spelling, and capitalization errors.
- Be sure to use interesting sentences beginning them in a variety of ways and using vivid words and descriptions.
- Your work must be your own. Any use of AI for topic generation or sentence formation is prohibited and cause for a zero. Exception allowed for spellcheck.

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