

Summer Reading List for Incoming 6th Grade (2021)

**Titles on the Middle School Summer Reading Lists reflect notable award winners and critically acclaimed books in middle grade fiction/nonfiction. There are many different genres and narrative types on each grade level's list. Please review the choices with your child and decide together which would be best for him or her. Corresponding assignments are attached.*

Rising 6th Graders are asked to read **two books** over the summer break. **Required** for everyone is ***A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park**, and one book of their choice from the list under **Book 2**.

Written assignments can be submitted to our 6th Grade ELA Google Classroom (join with an IHM account using the code **w3li4zw**) OR handed in as a hard copy on the first day of school in September. *Please be aware that a physical copy of the CREATIVE PROJECT for *A SINGLE SHARD* should be handed in on the first day of school.

REQUIRED BOOK:

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park (Newbery Medal Winner)

ASSIGNMENT #1 for *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Directions: Answer each question in paragraph form. For rising 6th graders, this should be at least 5-6 sentences of your own words. Be sure to respond to EVERY PART of the question. Include specific details from the text to support what you say. These examples can be paraphrased (described in detail) and quoted (sentences taken directly from the book and placed in between quotation marks). Keep in mind that quoted examples do not count as your own writing, so you will need to explain why they are important in your own words.

1. Describe what sets Tree-ear and Crane-man **apart** from the rest of the village. How is this information important to the plot of the story?
2. What is **Crane-man's role** in the book? Be sure to include an explanation of his relationship to Tree-ear in your response.
3. Explain how Tree-ear learns the secret of the new glaze firing process for master potter Min. Was this action **justified** (okay to do)? Support your answer with specific reasons as to why or why not.
4. What **quest** does Tree-ear undertake in the book? Why is he so determined to complete this task?
5. Explain the importance of **father-son relationships** in the book. In your response, you may wish to consider Min and his son, and eventually, Min and Tree-ear.

6. Crane-man warns Tree-ear about **foxes** and then Tree-ear is concerned when he sees a fox on his journey. Explain what foxes mean in traditional Korean mythology. Why is it important that the author included this in the story?
7. Identify and explain **ONE obstacle** that Tree-ear faces while traveling to deliver the pottery to the Royal Emissary. (*Do not use the example of the fox from the previous question*).
8. Why might the author have included **Crane-man's death** in the book? Consider how it affects Tree-ear and what he learns from it in your response.
9. How is Tree-ear **rewarded** at the end of the story? Explain how this might affect his life moving forward.
10. What might be the **message** of the book? Explain your reasoning with specific examples from the story.
11. Reread the last section of Ch. 13 about the **"Thousand Cranes Vase."** Why might the author have included this information at the end of the book?
12. Read the **"Author's Note"** at the end of the book. Choose and describe one piece of **historical information** that Linda Sue Park used as inspiration for *A Single Shard*.

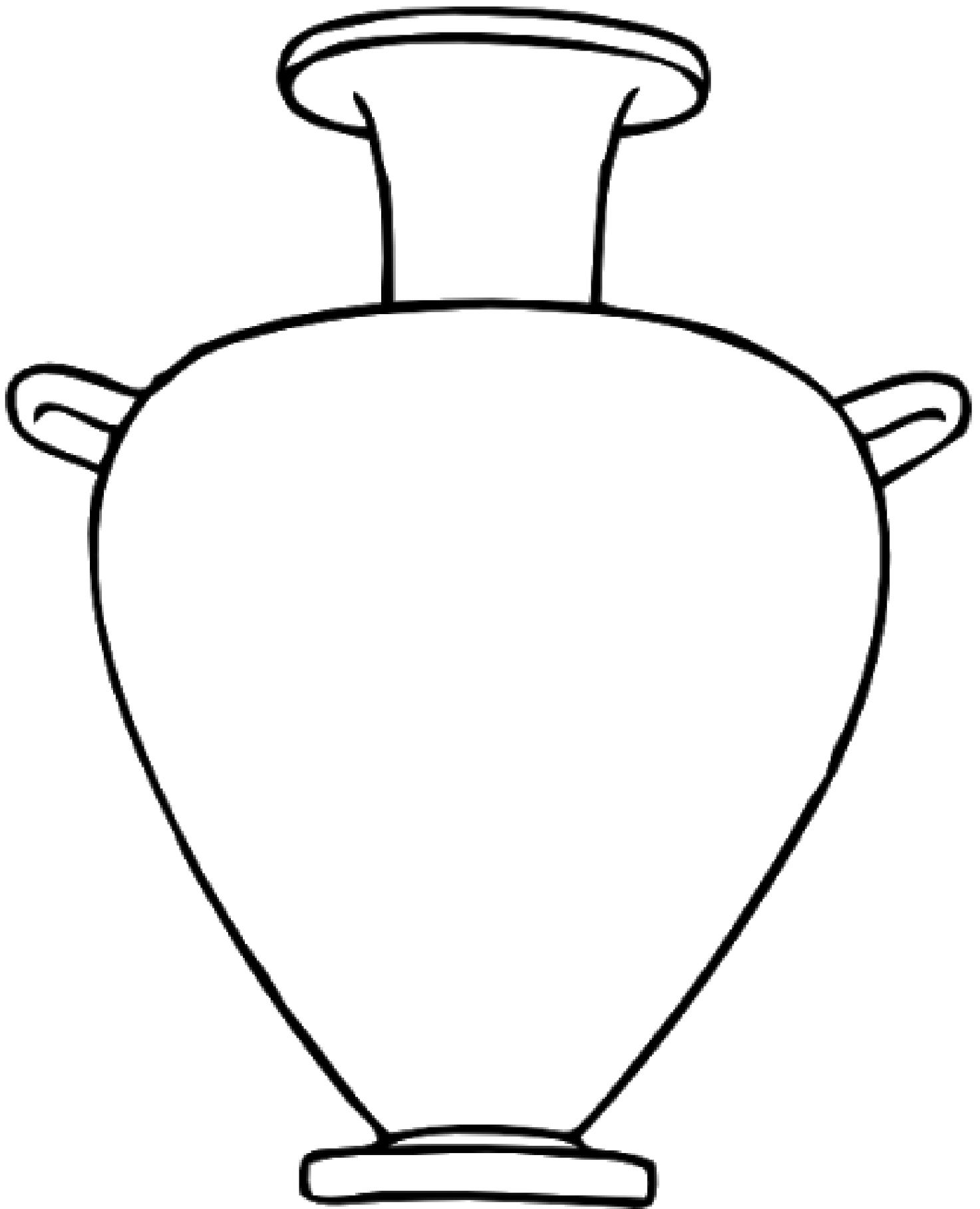
ASSIGNMENT #2 FOR A SINGLE SHARD BY LINDA SUE PARK: CREATIVE PROJECT

Directions: Create your own pottery for the Royal Emissary in Songdo!

Congratulations...the master potter to whom you are apprenticed has asked for your help in designing a pot for the competition. Use the template provided to make your masterpiece.

Requirements:

- Create a **UNIQUE** design on the template. It should **NOT** look like Min's / Tree-ear's pot on the book cover.
- Use **COLOR**. Although Min's masterpieces use red clay for glaze, you are free to use any color/colors that you would like for your design.
- Make **DESIGNS**. The Royal Emissary would not choose a pot that is only one color without designs. Draw patterns and images on your template so it pleases the Emperor.
- On the **BACK** of your template, write an explanation about what becoming a master potter would mean for Tree-ear in *A Single Shard*. (5-6 sentences).
- No creative design is complete without the artist's name...be sure to include yours on the **BACK** of the template where your writing assignment is.



BOOK #2: Choose a title from the following list for your **second** summer reading book.

<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i> by Gennifer Choldenko	FICTION / DISABILITIES
<i>All the Greys on Green Street</i> by Laura Tucker	FICTION / ART / MYSTERY / FAMILY
<i>Beyond the Bright Sea</i> by Lauren Wolk	HISTORICAL / REALISTIC FICTION
<i>The Egypt Game</i> by Zilpha Keatley Snyder	MYTHOLOGY / MYSTERY
<i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman	HORROR / MYSTERY / FAMILY
<i>Hello Universe</i> by Erin Entrada Kelly	FICTION
<i>The Moorchild</i> by Eloise McGraw	MYTHOLOGY / SCOTTISH
<i>One Crazy Summer</i> by Rita Williams Garcia	FICTION / AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
<i>The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</i> by Avi	HISTORICAL FICTION / MYSTERY
<i>Turtle in Paradise</i> by Jennifer Holm	HISTORICAL FICTION
<i>The Wanderer</i> by Sharon Creech	FICTION / ADVENTURE
<i>When You Reach Me</i> by Rebecca Stead	FICTION / MYSTERY
<i>When You Trap A Tiger</i> by Tae Keller	KOREAN FABLE / FAMILY FICTION <i>*2021 Newbery Medal</i>
<i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin	MYTHOLOGY / CHINESE
<i>Wringer</i> by Jerry Spinelli	FICTION
<i>Bomb: The Race to Build-And Steal-The World's Most Dangerous Weapon</i> by Steve Sheinkin	NONFICTION / HISTORY
<i>The Dreamer</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan	NONFICTION / BIOGRAPHY / POETRY
<i>How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure</i> by John Rocco	NONFICTION / SCIENCE
<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Readers Edition</i> by Michael Pollan	NONFICTION / SCIENCE / NUTRITION

Assignment for BOOK 2:

(Please note that the assignment for this is different depending on whether you read a FICTION or NONFICTION book as your choice.)

IF YOU CHOOSE A FICTION BOOK FROM LIST 2:

If you choose a fiction book from the list as your second choice, complete the following:

Write a three paragraph response that explains how the main character of the book has changed from the beginning to the end. In your response, be sure to talk about what the character is like at the **beginning (paragraph #1)**, **middle (paragraph #2)**, and **end of the book (paragraph #3)**. Answer the following throughout your paragraphs:

- Explain **WHY** this character changes throughout the book.
- Does the character change because of important events or conversations with other characters? What causes the changes?
- How do these character changes affect the book's plot?

Include **specific examples** in your report and list the page number where they were found in the book. List the title and author at the beginning of your report. You may either paraphrase these examples or quote them from the text. Remember, each paragraph should have at least 5-6 sentences of your own writing.

IF YOU CHOOSE A NONFICTION BOOK FROM LIST 2:

If you choose a nonfiction book as your second choice, complete the following:

- For the nonfiction book that you have chosen, write a three paragraph report about the book's main event or problem.
- Explain the **main ideas** and the **author's purpose** in writing the book (**paragraph #1**).
- Explain how the book's main event or problem **changes the world or individual people** in some way (**paragraphs #2 and #3**).
- Include **specific examples** for each paragraph in your report and list the page number where they were found in the book. You may either paraphrase these examples or quote them from the text. Remember, each paragraph should have at least 5-6 sentences of your own writing. List the title and author at the beginning of your report.

BOOKS NEEDED FOR 6th GRADE ELA CLASS:

First Quarter:

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Please have Percy Jackson upon arrival to school in September

Second Quarter:

Black Ships Before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliff

Third Quarter:

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep

Fourth Quarter:

Flush by Carl Hiaasen