

June 2021

Hello Future Fifth Graders!

What a year we've had! I know you're ready for your vacation, but I wanted to let you know about your reading assignments for the summer - there are some really fantastic books you'll have the opportunity to read. Along with reading, you will have a bit of work to do - this helps your teacher know how well you understood what you read!

- **Book #1:** We will all read *Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff. We will all complete the attached book report for this book.
- **Book #2:** You may choose any book from the attached list (other than *Absolutely Almost*) and complete any of the activities listed below.
- **Book #3:** You may choose any book you'd like! It does not have to be from our list. You will also complete one of the below assignments.

All summer reading assignments must be completed and handed in on the first day of school!

Here are your choices for projects for book #s 2 and 3. You may only choose each activity once.

1. Illustrate a scene from the book and write a caption (use complete sentences). Please use 8 ½ x 11 " paper.
2. Write a letter to one of the main characters. Your letter needs to be at least 6 sentences long and it should show me your understanding of the plot of the book. This can be typed or handwritten on theme paper.
3. Write a descriptive paragraph of a big scene from the book (in your own words). Your paragraph should be at least 6 sentences and include details from the story, feelings, character names, etc. Typed or handwritten on theme paper.
4. Do a character web for two characters in the story. The webs should include "character traits" (funny, smart, loyal) about each character.
5. Tell your opinion of the book in a book review. Be sure it's at least 6 sentences and use details from the text to support your opinions. Typed or handwritten on theme paper.

Email me with questions! tcronin@sfaschool.com

Recommended Summer Reading 2021

FOURTH GRADE ENTERING FIFTH GRADE

***Aim* by Joyce Moyer Hostetter** As World War II threatens the United States in 1941, fourteen-year-old Junior Bledsoe fights his own battles at home. Junior struggles with school and with anger—at his father, his insufferable granddaddy, his neighbors, and himself—as he desperately tries to understand himself and find his own aim in life. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

***Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff** Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself. ©2015 Grade Level: 5-7

***Because of the Rabbit* by Cynthia Lord** On the last night of summer, Emma tags along with her game warden father on a routine call. They're supposed to rescue a wild rabbit from a picket fence, but instead they find a little bunny. Emma convinces her father to bring him home for the night. **2020 ALSC Notable Children's Book** ©2016 Grade Level 5–6

***Chasing Space Young Readers' Edition* by Leland Melvin** A true story about the perseverance of an NFL star turned NASA astronaut. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez** There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school—you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malú (María Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. **2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book** ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

***Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita William-Garcia** Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. **Coretta Scott King Award** ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

***The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary* by Laura Shovan** Emerson Elementary is closing its doors and is due to be replaced by a shopping mall. Not everyone in this multiracial fifth-grade class feels the same about the school's imminent closure. The variety of expressive writing styles for each character makes this book unique. ©2016 Grade Level 5–7

***Sweeping Up the Heart* by Kevin Henkes** Amelia Albright dreams about going to Florida for spring break like everyone else in her class, but her father—a cranky and stubborn English professor—has decided Florida is too much adventure. ©2020 Grade Level 5-7

***Where Watermelons Grow* by Cindy Baldwin** When twelve-year-old Della Kelly finds her mother furiously digging black seeds from a watermelon in the middle of the night and talking to people who aren't there, Della worries that it's happening again—that the sickness that put her mama in the hospital four years ago is back. ©2018 Grade Level 5–7

***White Bird* by R. J. Palacio** Grandmère Sara's story comes to light as she describes her life as a young Jewish girl during Nazi times. While hiding in a Nazi-occupied French village, she tells the tale of how a boy once shunned by classmates became her best friend. ©2019 Grade Level 5–6

Name: _____

Book Report

Title: *Absolutely Almost*

Author: Lisa Graff

Setting: (When and where does the story take place?):

Tell who the main characters are and provide a brief description:

Describe the *conflict* of the book (What is the main problem for your main characters?):

How is the conflict resolved?

What is a theme of the book (What is a big message that the author is trying to say about life in general?)

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Please explain your answer.
