



## RISING EIGHTH GRADERS

### Summertime Words & Numbers

“I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June.”

– L.M. Montgomery, [Anne of Green Gables](#)

#### Books & Reading

#### Required Summer Reading & Annotation Work:

*Out of the Silent Planet* — C.S. Lewis

This summer, students will not simply read but will continue practicing the habit of close reading and annotation. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office at 281-494-1157.

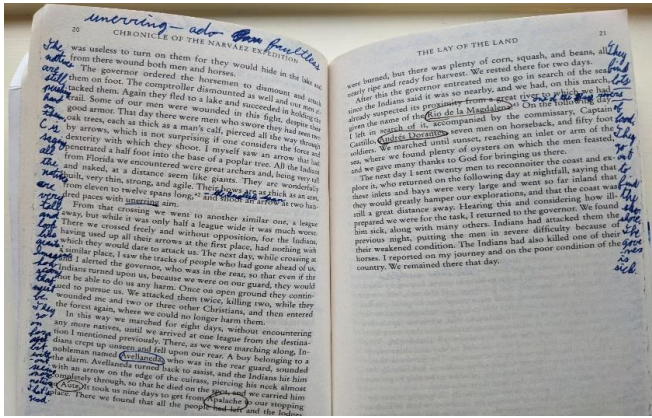
For each two-page spread, do the following:

1. **Write a notes in the margins.** On each page, there should be notes about what is going on, and your thoughts about what is happening. Or, you might write a question that you would imagine asking someone else, like a quiz question.
2. **Write out the definitions of one word per TWO-PAGE SPREAD that you previously have not encountered.** Make sure that the definition matches the word’s context in the book. If you already know all the words in the page, then pick a word that you think someone might not know but should. Do not pick weak words to avoid the difficult words. You don’t have to use the exact dictionary definition, just write briefly how you would explain the word to a smart 7th grader.  
Example:  
**obnoxious** — *adj* — annoying.  
to **scamper** — *verb* — to crawl or run quickly in fear or excitement.
3. **Circle proper nouns that you don’t know.** So, for example, the first time you read about “Veracruz,” you circle the name, but after that you don’t have to. *See the example.*
4. **Reflection Paper (Required)**
  - Minimum 300 words
  - Written neatly (skip lines, best handwriting)
  - Due on the first day of school

#### Prompt:

Identify and describe the specific virtues Ransom displays as he navigates the unknown. Look closely at his humility (his willingness to unlearn his assumptions and listen to the *hrossa*), his fortitude (his endurance in the face of existential dread), and his intellectual honesty (his rejection of the space-conquering hubris embodied by Weston and Devine). How do these virtues allow him to cooperate with the grace of his circumstances rather than succumb to despair or panic?

Here is an example of the annotation work. Notice three things:



- Notes in the margins.
- Definition along the top.
- Unfamiliar proper nouns are circled.

## Math

- Review foundational math facts and problem-solving skills
- Strengthen fluency in operations and reasoning

## Nature Studies

- Observe and study the natural world
- Reflect on patterns, order, and design in creation

## Music

- Listen to sacred or classical music that encourages reflection

**Activity:** Write or reflect on how the music leads you to think about truth, beauty, and God

## Art

- Practice drawing or sketching
- Create artwork inspired by your reading

## Spiritual Life

- Attend **Holy Mass every Sunday** (even when traveling)
- Attend Holy Mass on some weekdays
- Pray the Rosary with your family every day. Even one decade is better than none!

## Additional Ideas:

- Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is waiting for you!
- Talk about God's creation during nature walks
- Follow the Eucharistic Pilgrimages virtually at <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>

## A Final Encouragement

This summer, you begin to grow not only as a reader, but as a thinker. Through careful reading, reflection, and attention, you will begin to see more deeply into stories—and into your own life.

Do not procrastinate. Do your best work. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!