



2026 – 2027 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

6th Grade English

Mrs. Holemon

READING REQUIREMENT

BENTO BOX

1. You will read the entire novel that the school provided at the end of the year. You picked from the provided list and were supplied with one of the following novels: *Little Women*, *The Bronze Bow*, *The Magician's Nephew*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *A Long Walk to Water*.
2. As you read your novel, annotate (highlight/take notes) in your book as you read the elements of literature. Highlight new characters and their characteristics, parts of the plot, sentences that support the book's theme or mood, and so on. This will be a separate grade.
3. Make sure you fully understand what you are reading and check in with your parent often to discuss the book.
4. When you finish the book, you are ready to begin your assignment.

MAIN ASSIGNMENT

WHAT IS A BOOK BENTO?

A book bento is a visual display of your chosen book, plus 4-6 items that represent symbols, themes, characters, or the plot of that book. It is paired with a written explanation of the items and what they represent, which should show me that you fully understood your book and are able to analyze what you read. The layout, color scheme, and background should create an aesthetically pleasing image overall.

"Bento" is a type of box that originated in Japan centuries ago. It contains several types of food, each separated and in geometric lines, creating a pleasing visual effect.

For this project, you will gather items that represent parts of your book. I want you to think about items that represent the characters, the main events of the story, and other elements of literature from your story. You will gather the items, arrange them for a "lay flat photo," based on the directions below, and take a picture. After you complete your bento picture, you will create a Canva or PowerPoint slideshow that includes the bento picture and additional slides that explain each special item you picked.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

To make your book bento, you'll need the following items:

- Your book
- 4-6 Small objects
- Fabric or textures for background

THE PROCESS

Before jumping into creating your book bento, consider the following:

- What color scheme will you use? It should complement the colors in your book cover or match the theme or mood of your story.
- What are some significant themes, symbols, characters, and plot events? And how can these become small items that you can include?
- What can you use for your background? Consider a thematic texture or color.

ARRANGING YOUR FLAT LAY PHOTO

Book bento photos are flat lay, which means they are laid out on a flat surface, and you need to stand over them to take your photo. Try standing on a chair or step stool to get some height and avoid any shadows.

- Lay out your background fabric or texture flat. Place your book in the center or corner of the area and begin arranging items around the book. You need 4-6 items that represent your book.
- Remember the bento style and arrange items geometrically, using straight lines. Avoid overlapping items and pretend there are invisible walls separating each item. Avoid big, empty spaces. Take your flat lay photo, editing out any glares or shadows, if necessary.
- You may include one or two hand drawn or crafted items that you create yourself

When creating your visual bento box, you need to pick items that represent different elements of literature. Elements of literature are described as follows:

Elements of Literature

- **Plot:** The sequence of events that make up a story. It includes the beginning (introduction), the middle (where problems happen and get more exciting), and the end (how things are resolved). *Example:* In *Because of Winn-Dixie*, Opal adopts a stray dog, makes new friends in her town, and learns more about her family and herself.
- **Characters:** The people, animals, or creatures in the story. There are usually main characters (who the story is mostly about) and minor characters (who help move the story along). *Example:* In *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins is the main character, while Gandalf and the dwarves are important supporting characters.
- **Setting:** The time and place where the story happens. It includes the location, the time period, the weather, and the culture. *Example:* The setting of *Charlotte's Web* is a farm in the summer and fall.
- **Theme:** The big message or lesson about life that the author wants you to learn. It's not stated directly and you have to figure it out from the story. *Example:* One theme in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is that courage and friendship can overcome evil.
- **Conflict:** The problem or struggle that the characters face. It can be:
 - Person vs. Person (fighting with another character)
 - Person vs. Self (a character struggling with their own feelings)
 - Person vs. Nature (fighting against weather, animals, etc.)

- Person vs. Society (fighting against rules or unfair laws). *Example: In Hunger Games, the main conflict is Person vs. Society.*
- **Point of View:** Who is telling the story. Common types for sixth grade:
 - **First Person:** The narrator is a character in the story and uses “I” or “we.”
 - **Third Person:** The narrator is outside the story and uses “he,” “she,” or “they.” *Example: Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is written in first person.
- **Mood** The feeling or atmosphere the author creates for the reader (scary, happy, mysterious, sad, etc.).
Example: A dark, stormy castle creates a spooky mood.
- **Tone** The author’s attitude toward the subject or characters (funny, serious, sarcastic, excited, etc.). *Example: Roald Dahl (The BFG) often uses a humorous and slightly mischievous tone.*
- **Foreshadowing** Hints or clues the author gives about something that will happen later in the story. *Example: A character saying “I have a bad feeling about this” before something bad happens.*
- **Symbolism** When an object, person, or event stands for something more than what it is (a deeper meaning).
Example: A red rose can symbolize love.

Other terms to think about:

- **Climax** — The most exciting part of the story where the conflict reaches its peak.
- **Resolution** — How the story ends, and the problems are solved (or not solved).
- **Protagonist** — The main character- usually the “good guy” or hero.
- **Antagonist** — The character or force that works against the protagonist (the “bad guy” or enemy)

CREATING YOUR PRESENTATION

You will need to upload your picture into a Canva (you will use your school Canva login) or a PowerPoint slideshow. Please include the following:

1. Title Slide: Your name and the book you read
2. Bento Picture (this should take up the whole slide with no background)
3. One Slide per item you included in your bento picture (description of how to write this will follow)
4. A final review slide of the book. Include a rating scale of your choosing (stars, scale of 1-10, thumbs up/down) and write at least one sentence with your reasoning.

WRITING EXPECTATIONS FOR EACH SLIDE

- Include at the top of the slide the name of the item
- Write a paragraph in first person with a very detailed explanation of why you chose this item to describe something from your book. You need to use full, complete sentences, vary your transition words (words you start your sentences with), have proper spelling and conventions, and have a good writer’s voice. I do not want to hear a robot describing the item. Please use voice to explain not only why you chose the item, but the thought process you put into it. Make sure that each item represents a different component of the book and focuses on the elements of literature.

- You should have at least one component that represents the theme or mood of the story, whether that is an item, background, or color scheme. If you choose to describe the theme or mood with background or color scheme, please include a slide that explains that.

DUE DATE

Email your project to: cholemon@scamail.org by 7:30 am on the first day of school.

GRADING

This assignment is not meant to be done at the last minute. Please put thought and time into it. Any form of AI is strictly prohibited when completing this assignment. I hope you liked reading your book, and I can't wait to see what you create. You will be presenting your project during the first few weeks of school.

NEED HELP?

Email Mrs. Holemon. If you have any questions or concerns about your summer reading project, please email me at cholemon@scamail.org. Of course, with it being summer, I might not respond to your email right away, so thank you for your patience. Enjoy your summer!