

Hampden Charter School of Science

Middle School 6-8

At HCSS, every student engages in daily reading and writing tasks that keep their minds moving and their skills sharp!

But studies show that during the summer, students can lose up to 20% of their literacy gains from the school year.

By engaging in regular reading and writing activities, students can ensure that they not only retain what they've learned, but come to the next school year stronger than ever!

Summer of Words (2020)

5 x 5

Step 1 – For students new to HCSS – download and use this file to keep track of your reading!

Step 2 - Read!

Choose 5 texts to read over the course of the summer. What's a *text*? Anything! Students can choose books, short stories, poetry, graphic novels, nonfiction articles, newspaper articles, podcasts, etc. If you can read it, it's a text! (*Note: audiobooks DO count and are highly encouraged!*)

Step 3 - Write!

For each text that you read, you will write something inspired by that text. It might be a review of a book you've read, a response to an argument in an article, or a poem inspired by a scene from a short story! You'll have lots of prompts you could use, but ultimately the choice is yours!

Step 4 - Log and Submit!

Keep a log of what you're reading and what you're writing. When school starts, submit your log to your ELA teacher. (*Note: see below for an example!*)

Summer of Words 2020 Reading and Writing Log

What I Read	What I Wrote
<p>Example: <i>The Season of Styx Malone</i> by Kekla Magoon.</p>	<p>Prompt: (I choose to write a book review.)</p> <p>★ ★ ★ ★ ☆</p> <p><i>I recently finished Kekla Magoon’s coming-of-age novel The Season of Styx Malone. The novel follows two brothers, Caleb and Bobby Gene, who meet their cool new neighbor Styx Malone during summer vacation. He convinces them to get involved in a lot of his crazy ideas, but it isn’t long until the two brothers realize that they’re in over their heads!</i></p> <p><i>I really liked The Season of Styx Malone. Winning both the Coretta Scott King Honor Award, as well as the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the novel tells an exciting and touching story about brotherhood, friendship, and the challenges of growing up. The main character, Caleb, is a likable - if innocent - narrator who wants to be extraordinary and he shows he’s willing to do anything to escape the ordinary life his father has planned for him. Styx is an intriguing and secretive older boy with big plans, but a mysterious past. The author keeps you on the edge of your seat as you learn more about who Styx is and as the brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene learn more about themselves.</i></p> <p><i>I give this book 4 out of 5 stars for its masterful storytelling, interesting characters, and engaging plot. I subtract one star, however, due to the ending. I won’t spoil it, but the ending wraps up everything just a little too perfectly, and it wasn’t as believable. That said, it’s hard to hate a happy ending, so I happily give The Season of Styx Malone 4 out of 5 stars.</i></p>
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Reading Resources:

Library Services

- [Agawam Public Library - Curbside Pickup!](#)
- [Chicopee Public Library - eBooks & Audiobooks](#)
- [Holyoke Public Library - Online Resources](#)
- [\(Ludlow\) Hubbard Memorial Library - Online Resources](#)
- [Springfield City Library - Online Resources](#)
- [Westfield Athenaeum - "Library to Go"](#)
- [West Springfield Public Library - eBooks & Audiobooks](#)

Did you know? All Massachusetts residents are eligible for a Boston Public Library eCard! Check out more information below!

- [Boston Public Library - Register for an electronic library card!](#)

Other Online Reading Sources

- [DOGONews](#) - Kid-friendly news!
- [Funbrain](#) - Middle Grade Books Online!
- [National Geographic Kids](#)
- [Smithsonian Tween Tribute](#)
- [Great Podcasts for Middle School Students](#)
- [Scholastic Summer Read-a-Palooza!](#)
- [More lists of resources!](#)

Writing Resources - Try to write 200-300 words for each prompt!

1. Free write a response. What is happening? What is your reaction?
2. (**Fiction**) Locate a quote that reveals something important about a character, conflict, theme, setting, or idea; explain why that quote is important!
3. (**Fiction**) Locate a quote that jumps out at you, that you find beautiful, important, confusing, or interesting; explain why you chose it!
4. (**Fiction**) Write about your favorite part of the story so far. Be specific about what you like and why you like it!
5. (**Fiction**) Write about your **least** favorite part of the story so far. Be specific about what you did not like and why you didn't like it!
6. (**Fiction**) Write a review of a book you read. Give it a rating out of 5 stars and explain your reasoning!
7. Make a text-to-**self** connection with your text and explain.
8. Make a text-to-**text** connection with your text and explain.
9. Make a text-to-**world** connection with your text and explain.
10. (**Nonfiction**) Locate a quote that reveals something about the author's purpose or argument. Explain why that quote is important!
11. (**Nonfiction**) Locate a quote that jumps out at you, that you find important, confusing, or interesting and explain why you chose it!
12. (**Nonfiction**) Evaluate the speaker's argument. Do you agree or disagree? Explain by using details from the text to support your answer.
13. (**Nonfiction**) Write down a question about your book/article or describe something that confuses you. Attempt to answer your question with an educated guess, or more research! Explain.
14. (**Nonfiction**) Write a letter/response to the author describing your thoughts and feelings on the issues presented in the text.
15. **Or... anything else! If you have something you want to write about, write about it!**

Hampden Charter School of Science
High School (9-12)

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Summer of Words (2020)

10 x 10

Step 1 – For students new to HCSS – download and use this file to keep track of your reading!

Step 2 - Read!

Choose 10 texts to read over the course of the summer. What's a *text*? Anything! Students can choose books, short stories, poetry, graphic novels, nonfiction articles, newspaper articles, podcasts, etc. If you can read it, it's a text! (*Note: audiobooks DO count and are highly encouraged!*)

Step 3 - Write!

For each text that you read, you will write something inspired by that text. It might be a review of a book you've read, a response to an argument in an article, or a poem inspired by a scene from a short story! You'll have lots of prompts you could use, but ultimately the choice is yours!

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Summer of Words 2020

Reading and Writing Log

What I Read	What I Wrote
<p>Example: <i>The Season of Styx Malone</i> by Kekla Magoon.</p>	<p>Prompt: (I choose to write a book review.)</p> <p>★★★★☆</p> <p><i>I recently finished Kekla Magoon's coming-of-age novel <i>The Season of Styx Malone</i>. The novel follows two brothers, Caleb and Bobby Gene, who meet their cool new neighbor Styx Malone during summer vacation. He convinces them to get involved in a lot of his crazy ideas, but it isn't long until the two brothers realize that they're in over their heads!</i></p> <p><i>I really liked <i>The Season of Styx Malone</i>. Winning both the Coretta Scott King Honor Award, as well as the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the novel tells an exciting and touching story about brotherhood, friendship, and the challenges of growing up. The main character, Caleb, is a likable - if innocent - narrator who wants to be extraordinary and he shows he's willing to do anything to escape the ordinary life his father has planned for him. Styx is an intriguing and secretive older boy with big plans, but a mysterious past. The author keeps you on the edge of your seat as you learn more about who Styx is and as the brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene learn more about themselves.</i></p> <p><i>I give this book 4 out of 5 stars for its masterful storytelling, interesting characters, and engaging plot. I subtract one star, however, due to the ending. I won't spoil it, but the ending wraps up everything just a little too perfectly, and it wasn't as believable. That said, it's hard to hate a happy ending, so I happily give <i>The Season of Styx Malone</i> 4 out of 5 stars.</i></p>
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Other Online Reading Sources

- [List of the Most Popular YA Books Right Now!](#)
- [National Geographic](#)
- [New York Times Room for Debate](#)
- [Great Podcasts for High School Students](#)
- [Graphic Novel Recommendations for High School](#)
- [More lists of resources!](#)

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