

A decorative graphic featuring a large, faint dashed circle that frames the central text. Various solid-colored circles in shades of teal, lime green, orange, and pink are scattered around the perimeter. Some circles overlap, and some have smaller circles inside them, creating a layered, abstract effect.

Summer Language Exploration Mountview Grade 8

The background is white with several colorful circles and arcs. A large yellow circle is at the top left, a large teal circle is at the top right, and a large orange circle is at the bottom left. There are also smaller circles in green, blue, and pink. A dashed grey line curves around the central text area.

“

“Why do we need the things in books? The poems? The essays? The stories? Authors disagree. Authors are human and fallible and foolish. Stories are lies after all, tales of people who never existed and the things that never actually happened to them. Why should we read them? Why should we care? The teller and the tale are very different. We must not forget that. Ideas - written ideas- are special. They are the way we transmit our stories and our thoughts from one generation to the next. If we lose them, we lose our shared history. We lose much of what makes us human. And fiction gives us empathy; it puts us inside the minds of other people, gives us the gift of seeing the world through their eyes. Fiction is a lie that tells us true things, over and over.” ~ Neil Gaiman

“



Objective

Typically, students who stop reading, writing, and other language activities over the summer will regress a bit. This assignment is a way to keep students' language skills at or above their grade level. However, we want our incoming students to tap into their passions as they play with language.



Task

Choose ONE activity to complete. There are many to choose from, so they have been organized around task; however, you only need to complete ONE total, not one per section.

Your final response should be one page in length and will be due within the first few weeks of school. You will have time to work on this in class, but you should come prepared with ideas, a draft, etc.



Read

- **Create your own book club.** Get together with a group of friends to read a novel or nonfiction book released in 2023. Video record part of your book club discussion, create a trailer for the book with yourselves as characters, vlog or blog a review. **If you are looking for a suggested reading from your 8th-grade teachers, click [here](#).**
- **Choose a book to read with your family and discuss.** ([Good Reads](#) has good suggestions, but you and your family can pick whatever you'd like!) How did the shared experience affect the quality and types of interactions you had in the family unit?
- **Read a genre or a topic you wouldn't normally explore deeply** (poetry, how-to, plays, screenplays, nonfiction, collected essays, adventure) and stick with it. Write about your challenges and victories.

The background is decorated with several overlapping circles and rings in various colors including yellow, pink, orange, green, blue, and teal. Some are solid, some are dashed, and some are hollow rings.

Write

- **Catalog a road trip**, write a journal, and then create some type of story out of it.
- **Research local history** (Holden, Rutland, Wachusett Reservoir, etc.), focusing on primary sources available through historical societies, libraries, and visiting sites. Then turn it into some type of story or a series of quiz-like “[Did You Know?](#)” slides like they have on the jumbotron at Fenway Park or movie theaters.
- Spend some time with your dog, cat, or any pet. If you don’t have a pet, borrow one. **Write a memoir from the animal’s point of view**. If you don’t want to write a memoir, paint or draw the narrative, or write a song.
- **Do a series of reviews of “the best of” summer**, focusing on places you’ve visited or researched: beaches, places for ice cream, restaurants, activities, etc.



Perform

- **Act in a play.** Keep the program and write a reflection about your experience.
- **Publicly perform a full set with your band.** Take some pictures or video! And write a reflection of your experience.

Take on a summer project (alone, with friends, with a family member) in which you build, repair, customize, or otherwise get hands-on with something. Construct a new patio, deck, or stone wall; Overhaul the motor on your boat or your car; Build an instrument or piece of furniture; Customize your bike, dirtbike, or motorcycle. Then communicate the experience via blogging, writing a step-by-step manual, or writing a narrative. Make sure you describe your challenges as well as your triumphs.



Listen

- What songs were the soundtrack of your summer? Why did you connect with those songs? Be sure to list and explain at least five.
- **Meditate.** Attempt to clear your mind and notice what thoughts intrude. What does the voice in your head say when it interrupts? Keep a journal of the trends in your thinking. Or, do guided meditations to help you conquer a problem (procrastination, anxiety, negativity, etc.) Evaluate which ones work for you and why. Check out free app trials like [Calm](#) and [Headspace](#).