



5th Grade Summer Reading

Dear 5th grader,

I am so excited for your upcoming school year with your new teacher! You are invited to take your first step into 5th grade by participating in our summer reading program. Hillcrest values reading quality literature. All students in 5th-10th grade will be participating in reading great books during the summer months.

Why is reading assigned over the summer? Reading keeps your learning muscles in shape by:

- Building vocabulary
- Improving spelling through word recognition
- Focusing your thoughts
- Introducing new people, places, ideas, and situations
- And so much more!

5th graders will read at least two books this summer. The first is **The Bronze Bow**. This book will help you understand the people and cultures who lived during the time of Jesus. We'll be studying more about Jesus, Jerusalem, and Rome in History and Bible class.

There are **five options** for your second book. Choose **one** book option. *Please see the list on page 3 of this packet.* Some of these options are more difficult than others. Be sure that your book choice is one that you can read comfortably. If you have read one or more of the books before, please choose a different book from the list.

The two books include questions or a project to complete. These assignments are graded and due on or before **Friday, September 9th**. If you have any questions, ask your parents to help you send an email to me and I will forward it to your new teacher. My email address is ajahr3@fhillcrest.org. You'll also be able to ask questions in person during the first week of school.

Find yourself a comfortable reading spot; perhaps a cozy chair, a tree limb, or a basement hideout away from the heat. Settle in and enjoy reading!

Cheering you on,
Mr. Armin Jahr III

Where can I find the books?

Hillcrest summer reading books can be found at:

- Your local library
- The bookstore (if you'd like to buy a personal copy)
- The Hillcrest summer library cart
 - There are multiple copies available of the 5th grade book options.
 - Books may be checked out from the front office of Hillcrest Academy. The book cart is located in the main hallway of the upper school castle building.

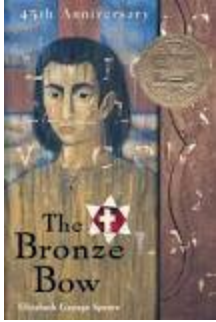
If you'd like, you may listen along to an audiobook while you read. *Follow along in your book while listening.* This will help you with vocabulary and comprehension. Unfortunately, I'm not able to provide audio versions of each book. Here are some search options:

- Hoopla app (public library)
- Audible (account required)
- Youtube (many books are available as read-alouds due to distance learning)

5TH GRADE SUMMER BOOK LIST

1. PRIMARY BOOK

A primary book is historical fiction or nonfiction related to the subjects studied in 5th grade.



The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth George Speare

Reading level: 5th grade

From the publisher: This gripping, action-packed novel tells the story of eighteen-year-old Daniel bar Jamin—a fierce, hotheaded young man bent on avenging his father’s death by forcing the Romans from his land of Israel. Daniel’s palpable hatred for Romans wanes only when he starts to hear the gentle lessons of the traveling carpenter, Jesus of Nazareth. A fast-paced, suspenseful, vividly wrought tale of friendship, loyalty, the idea of home, community . . . a powerful, relevant read in turbulent times.

Teacher’s note: This book helps set the stage for History and Bible next fall. In September, we’ll be studying conflicts between Rome, Jerusalem, and the people who would have seen Jesus with their own eyes. This book is referenced a lot in 5th grade!

⇒ After reading, answer the questions in this packet for “The Bronze Bow”.

2. SECONDARY BOOK OPTIONS

A secondary book is fiction that explores topics beyond subjects studied in 5th grade.

Choose one of the following:

- General Fiction: Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
- General Fiction: The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- Historical Fiction: The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw
- Fantasy: Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
- Fantasy: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
 - *Teacher’s note:* this is the original book in the “Chronicles of Narnia” series. Another Narnia book will be introduced during the school year. If you’ve never read this series, it is recommended that you read The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe over the summer.

⇒ After reading, complete a project to demonstrate your understanding of your book choice. See page 7 for details.

THE BRONZE BOW Question Packet

Please answer the following questions in cursive (if you have been taught) using complete sentences.

1. List three main characters found in the story. Describe each one in 1-2 sentences.

Character: _____

Description:

Character: _____

Description:

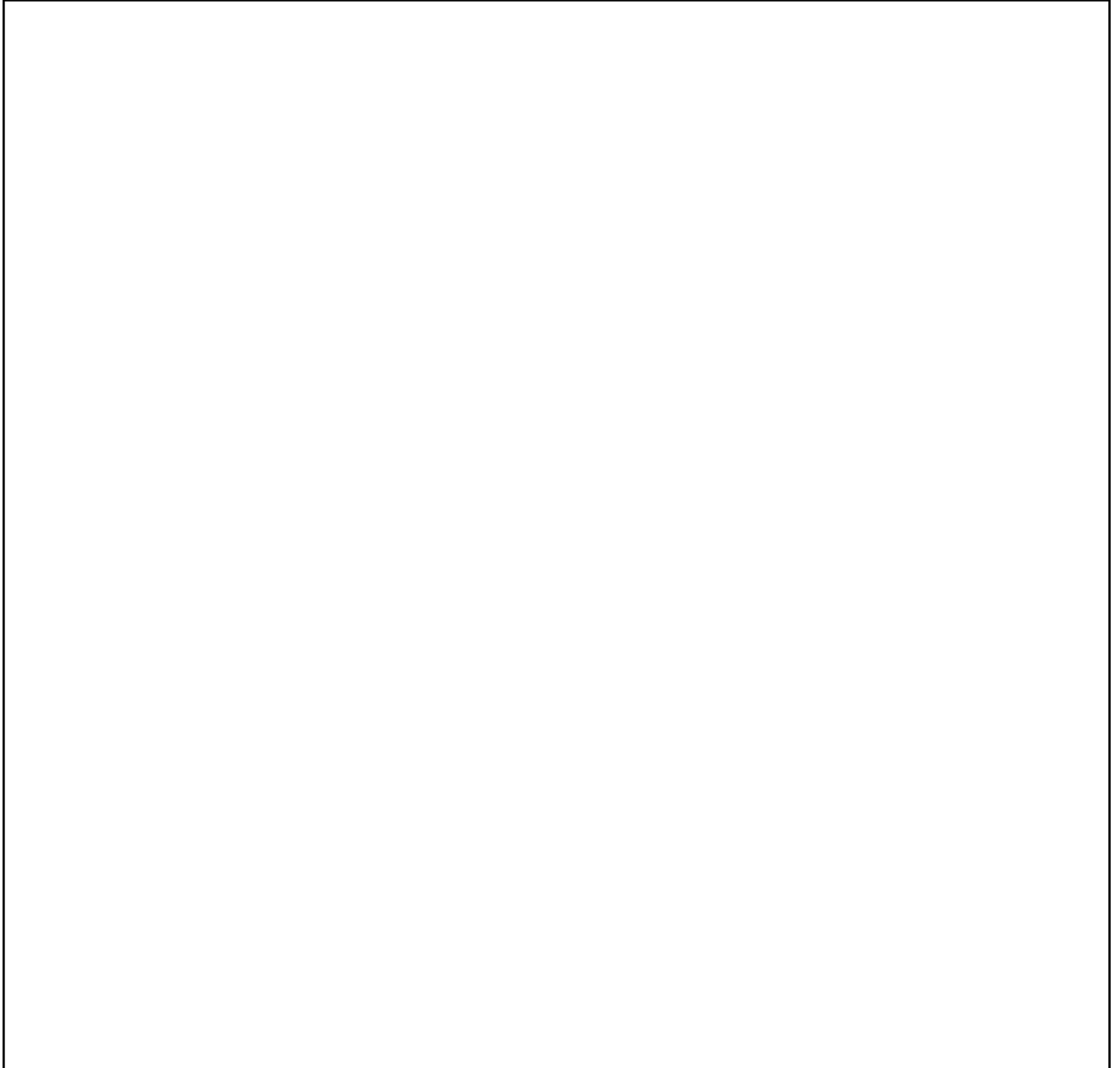
Character: _____

Description:

2. Describe one of the settings in the book. Draw a quality picture of how you imagine this setting. *Add color.* Label 3 details from the book in your picture.

Setting: _____

Picture and labels:



SECONDARY BOOK PROJECTS

Choose **one** of the project options below for the book you read. A rubric has been provided to explain how you will be graded.

Project Option 1: Book Jacket Design

A book jacket is the paper cover that contains illustrations and information about the book. It has two purposes. The first is to protect (keep it clean and dust free) and the second, to sell the book. You are going to inspire your classmates to read the book when they see the book jacket you design. Here are the instructions:

- a. With butcher paper, a brown grocery sack, or construction paper, fold a book cover for your book. You may simply fold a large rectangle in half and then fold the edges in about 3 inches to make flaps.
- b. Create a quality, colored illustration on the front cover. Include the name of the book and its author. *If your jacket is made from colored paper, do your illustration on white paper and glue/tape it to the jacket.*
- c. For the back cover, you will need to write a blurb that is so exciting your classmates will want to read the book. A “blurb” is a short, exciting introduction to the book. Here’s an example of a blurb for The Bronze Bow:
After witnessing his father’s crucifixion by Roman soldiers, Daniel bar Jamin is fired by a single passion: to avenge his father’s death by driving the Roman legions from the land of Israel.
- d. On the back cover, add a quote from the book that will make readers want to know what happens next.

Project Option 2: Writing Journal

A writing journal is a journal or a diary you keep while reading a particular book. Write entries in the journal based upon what you have read that day. Here are the details:

- a. Create a journal with folded paper or your own creative method.
- b. Pretend you are a character in the book. All entries should match the personality of the character.
- c. Write in your journal each day you read, or for each chapter you read (minimum of 10 entries). Be sure to write in the same style in which the character speaks. Your character may also comment on the other characters in the book. Your entries may include illustrations or doodles. Here’s an example entry from The Bronze Bow from the perspective of Daniel bar Jamin:

Today two intruders came to my cave from the village: Joel and Malthace. I haven’t seen them in 5 years! I really wanted to talk to them, but I also wanted to hide. What would they think of me? I was embarrassed at how I looked after living in the cave for so long. I decided to talk to them anyway. Maybe Joel will join me in Rosh’s army?

Project Option 3: Build a Scene

Construct a 3-D model of a scene from the book. Models should include at least 3 labeled characters from the scene, be detailed in design, and include a 1 paragraph summary of the created scene. Your paragraph should include 5+ complete sentences and follow appropriate spelling, punctuation and capitalization. *Model ideas: Lego, shoebox diorama, clay, etc.*

Secondary Book Project Rubric

<p>Comprehension</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project is related to the book. Project shows an understanding of the book's plot, ideas, themes, or context. Project follows given directions. Project demonstrates an understanding of characters and their relationships. 	☐ Meets all 4 requirements. (10 pts.)	☐ Meets 3 requirements. (9 pts.)	☐ Meets 2 requirements. (8 pts.)	☐ Meets 1 requirement. (7 pts.)	☐ Meets 0 requirements. (0 pts.)
<p>Creativity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project is artistic and original. Project is neat and detailed. Project is colorful and eye-catching (or filled with quality adjectives and verbs, if written). Project shows effort and excellence/quality. Project matches the written description, or as stated in the project. 	☐ Meets all 5 requirements. (10 pts.)	☐ Meets 4 requirements. (9 pts.)	☐ Meets 3 requirements. (8 pts.)	☐ Meets 2 requirements. (7 pts.)	☐ Meets 1 requirement. (6 pts.)
<p>Writing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capitalization Spelling Punctuation Complete sentences Writing is neatly organized and readable 	☐ 0 errors (10pts.)	☐ 1 error (9 pts.)	☐ 2-3 errors. (8 pts.)	☐ 4-5 errors. (7 pts.)	☐ 6+ errors. (6 pts.)

Final Grade: _____/30

Comments
