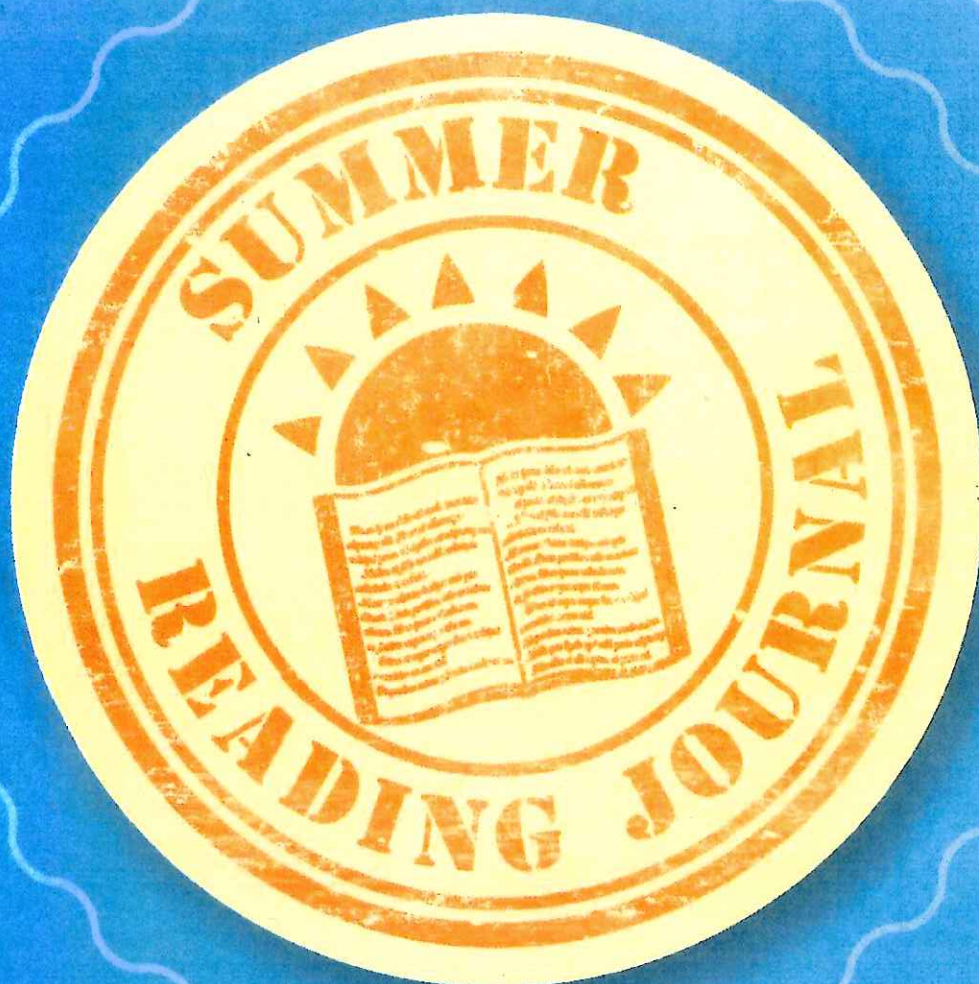


Grades
6-12



SCHOLASTIC

welcome to My BOOKS Summer

Dear Student,

This Summer Reading Journal is intended to be used with books that you already have in your home or that you check out from your local library. Use the activities in the journal to connect with what you are reading and spark family conversations. Invite your family to read with you, and encourage them to talk about the topics in each book. Books can be amazing starting points for shared experiences of laughter, imagination, and insight! Use the following tips to enhance your reading experience.

BEFORE READING: It is important to think about what you are going to read before beginning. This can set the stage for a more powerful reading experience.

- **Investigate the front cover.** How does the title relate to the image on the cover? What do you think this book will be about?
- **Discuss what you know about the topic.** For nonfiction books, think about questions you hope are answered in the text.

DURING READING: Thinking about the subject matter and text while you are reading can lead to a deeper understanding of the book.

- **Read stories and sections of stories multiple times.** You can discover subtleties and deeper meanings in the text with each reading.
- For longer books, **pause at section or chapter breaks** to monitor your own understanding. Can you explain what has happened in the book? What do you think will happen next? Look up any words or ideas you may not know.
- Pay attention to **plot and character development** as you read. Think about how different characters change throughout the book and how events in the plot affect each character. Consider which events impact the resolution of the book.

- **Discuss the author's craft.** Did the author use a particular style to tell the story? Did the author use any literary devices that require you to think beyond the literal meaning of the text? What message is the author conveying with similes, metaphors, idioms, and irony? Think about why the author made these decisions.
- **Look beyond the text.** Look for photographs, illustrations, and images that provide deeper meaning to the story.

AFTER READING: The impact and experience of reading a book do not end when the last page is turned. Thinking about and discussing ideas from a book after reading add new levels of meaning and understanding.

- **Discuss personal connections.** Have you ever had an experience like the main character? Have you ever visited a place like the setting of the book? Imagine what it would be like to be a character in the story.
- **Find the common thread that ties the story together.** In fiction stories, look for a theme. What events support the theme? In nonfiction stories, look for the main idea. What evidence supports the main idea?
- **Think about how you feel about what you have read.** You may read stories about important social issues or injustices from the past. Sometimes these topics can be difficult to read or think about. It can be helpful to write down your reaction to a book after reading, or to discuss these feelings with a friend or family member.

Most importantly, make reading a thoughtful experience that extends beyond the pages of the book. Talk about what you are reading with family and friends. Think critically and creatively about what you have read, and enjoy the adventure of reading!

Happy Reading,
Your Friends at Scholastic

Designed by Lindsey Dekker and Brian LaRossa.
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Digging Into the Details

Details give you more information about a topic. Often, the details answer the questions *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why*. Use the chart below to gather details about the topic of a book you read. Be sure to cite specific evidence from the book and include the page number.

Title _____ by _____

Book's Topic _____

Who?	What?
Page _____	Page _____
When?	Where?
Page _____	Page _____
Why?	
Page _____	

Ready, Set, Text

Pretend you are texting with a friend. Answer each question to tell your pal about a book you just read.

Title _____ by _____

Read any good books lately? What?

Tell me about the main character. Would I like this person?

What was the tone of the story? How did it make you feel?

Should I read this book? Why or why not?

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, keep the pretend conversation going. Pose more questions about the book and answer them as texts.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

There are usually crucial points in life that require people—whether real or fictional—to make important decisions. Choose two people or characters from a book you read, and write about a moment of decision for each of them. Then write about the outcomes of those decisions. Include page numbers to show where in the book you found the information you cite.

Title _____ by _____

Character 1	Moment of Decision	Outcome
	Page _____	Page _____
Character 2	Moment of Decision	Outcome
	Page _____	Page _____

EXTRA!

Right or wrong decision? Choose one of the decisions. On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph telling whether you think the person or character made the right or wrong choice.

The Way I See It . . .

Who's telling the story? The point of view—the perspective from which a story is told—affects how much is revealed about the characters and events in a story. Answer the questions below to explore the point of view of a book you read.

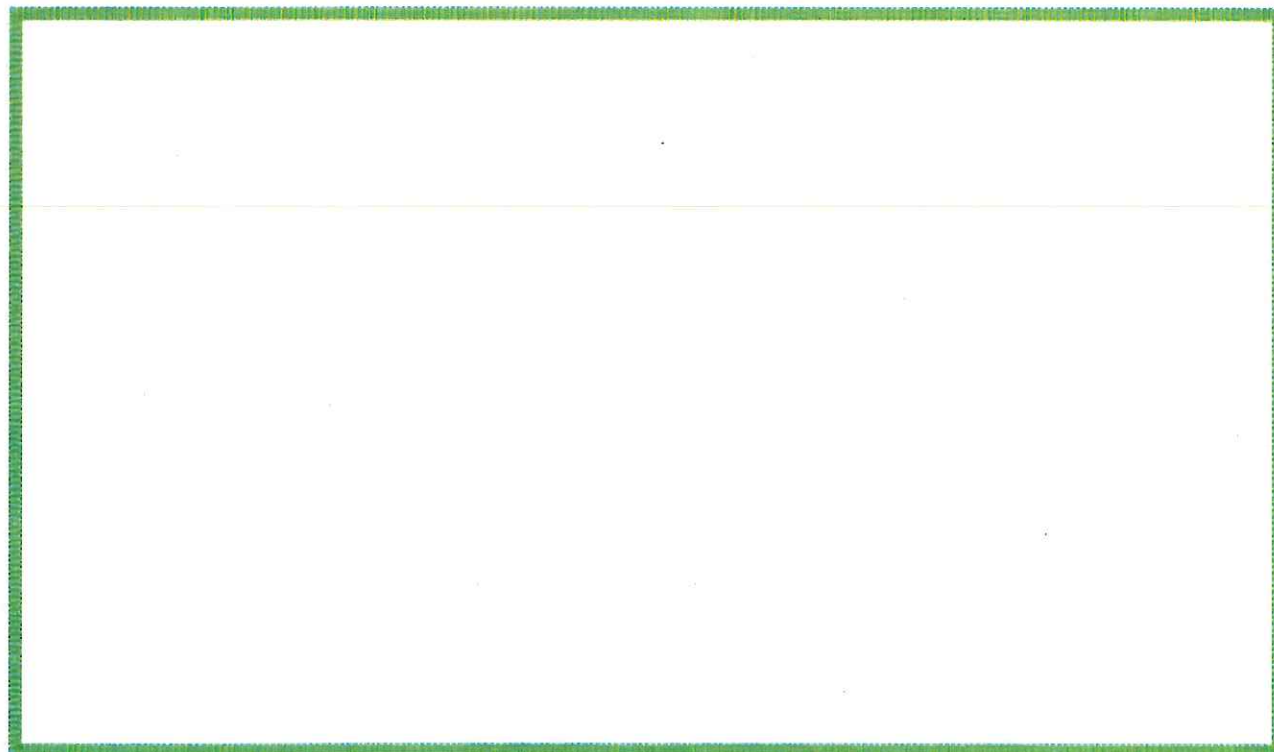
Title _____ by _____

1. Who's telling the story? _____

2. What evidence from the text can you cite that makes that clear? _____

3. Why do you think the author chose to tell the story from that viewpoint? _____

Now write a paragraph explaining how the story would be different if it were told from another character's perspective.



Tweet, Tweet

Time to broadcast your opinion to the world! Compose four tweets to tell about a book you read, adding a fitting hashtag for each. Challenge yourself to make the tweets super exciting. And remember, the Twitter character limit is 140 characters.

Title _____ by _____

Describe the main character to a T:



Tell when and where the book is set:



Briefly recap the book's plot:



Blast a blurb that will make everyone on Earth want to read it:



EXTRA!

Having fun? On a separate sheet of paper, compose more tweets about the same title.

Incredible Quotation

Read any good biographies lately? Find two important quotations from a book you read. Then complete the chart below.

Title _____ by _____

Quotation	This quotation made me think ...
Speaker _____ Page _____	
Quotation	This quotation made me think ...
Speaker _____ Page _____	

Find That Feeling

A book has the power to make you feel happy, sad, relieved, surprised—and every other emotion in between! Browse through a book you recently read and see if you can find an event that made you feel each emotion below. Describe the events in your own words and add page numbers for reference.

Title _____ by _____

I felt...	Event	Page(s)	Why I felt this way
happy			
sad			
relieved			
surprised			



What OTHER emotion did the book make you feel? On a separate sheet of paper, write about it.

Switch Position

Pick an informational book you read in which the author took a stand and made his or her opinion known. First, write a paragraph in which you agree with the author. Be sure to back up your claims by citing information from the text. Then, switch your position and write a paragraph that disagrees with the author. When you're done, check the box to tell how you REALLY feel.

Title _____ by _____

Write a paragraph in which you **AGREE** with the author:

Write a paragraph in which you **DISAGREE** with the author:

Now tell how you REALLY feel: ☐ I agree with the author. ☐ I disagree.

Read All About It!

You're an ace reporter who's just been handed a cool assignment: Retell the plot of a book in the form of a newspaper article. Be sure to stick to the facts and answer these six key questions: *Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?* When your article is complete, give it an attention-grabbing headline. Now, get writing—you're on a deadline!

Title _____ by _____

*Daily
Edition*

The Book Time

*All the Fiction
That's Fit to Print*

Write your headline here.

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, write an imagined "exclusive interview" with a key character from the same book.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Imagine you could invite one of the characters in your book to dinner. Which character would you choose? Write four questions you would ask him or her.

Title _____ by _____

Character _____

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Question 4: _____

In a short paragraph, explain why you chose the character you did.

EXTRA!

What food should be served at the dinner? On a separate sheet of paper, decide what your character would like to have for dinner and tell why.

The Kind of Person Who...

How would you describe the characters in a book you read? Choose three characters and complete each of the sentences below.

Title _____ by _____

1. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

2. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

3. _____ is the kind of person who ...
character's name

EXTRA!

On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about the kind of person who would like to read the book you read and explain why.

Word Workout

Give your vocabulary a workout! Keep track of the BEST new words you learned from books this summer.

	Word	Definition
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		



Love words? Start a word journal in which you write down all your favorites.

My Reading Log

Time to kick back and read! Record the titles and genres of each new book you devour. Then rate it with one to five stars.

	Title of Book	Fiction or Nonfiction	How I Felt About It
1			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
2			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
3			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
5			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
6			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
7			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
8			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
9			★ ★ ★ ★ ★
10			★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Name _____

Grades 6-12

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