

June 19th, 2008

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I am so excited that your child has joined me in our summer adventure together! My hope of this project is to continue the focus of our Reading & Writing Community. There are ten week's worth of activities. The students will need to complete AT LEAST FIVE of the week activities in both the reading and writing areas to receive their **5th Grade Survival Pack** from me when they return to school on Tuesday, September 2nd, 2008.

Doing these activities provide you and your child the opportunity to open that window of discussion about reading and writing. Here are some pointers and thoughts for you as you approach this area with your child:

1. PLEASE DO NOT have the students correct what they have in their Writer's Notebook. I am not looking for spelling or grammar perfection. I am looking for what they have to say and how they are connecting meaning, thoughts, and opinions. Spelling can be worked on throughout the year.
2. Provide opportunities to discuss the books your child's reading this summer. Ask them why they picked it, what they think about the story, parts they love, parts they don't. Become their partner in reading and writing this summer.
3. After each activity they do, please initial the activity they have done. It will help me when they turn it in on September 2nd.
4. Students must do both Reading & Writing activities in order to have one week completed (i.e., They may not complete ten week's worth of writing activities and no reading activities if they would like to receive the Survival Pack since I want to be sure they're reading *and* writing this summer.) Please initial each activity after your child completes it.
5. I would suggest doing these activities with your child if possible.

Again, thank you for supporting and encouraging your child to be the best student they can be! Take care and have a great summer!

Warmest regards,
Ms. Shubitz
Fourth Grade Teacher

What I've Read This Summer

- Write the names of each book, newspaper, or magazine article you read.
- Write the name of the author, illustrator (if there is one).
- Write when you read each text.
- Write whether what you read was fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.
- Write why you liked or didn't like what you read.

Title	Author/Illustrator	Date Read	Fiction, Nonfiction, or Poetry	I liked/didn't like what I read because...

Learning: It's A Jungle Out There!

Ms. Shubitz's Summer Adventure Packet

Welcome adventure seekers! I am very excited that you have decided to join me on our summer learning journey!

This adventure packet will keep you fresh and ready for your next big adventure: 5th GRADE!

Each adventure is divided into weeks. If you so choose to accept these missions you **MUST** complete 50% of your adventures (i.e., five week's worth of Reading and Writing Activities) to receive a **FIFTH GRADE SURVIVAL PACK!**

The adventures can begin on JUNE 23RD.

You will get your **5th Grade Survival Pack** on the second day of school after handing-in your adventure sheets directly to me on the first day back to school! **GOOD LUCK KIDDOS!**

Let your summer take you on an amazing journey.

If you'd like to write to me, then please send mail to me at...

Week One "GETTING READY TO EXPLORE"

Hold on tight adventure seekers, you are about to go on a summer journey of learning! You have several choices of missions to complete this week. Keep your summer writer's notebooks close to you! You might find some inspiration growing around you to catch in your notebook! Good luck and let the journey begin!!!

Writer's Activity Choice Week One (pick one & put your initials):

- ❑ Draw a picture of the outside just as it is that day. Put it in your writer's notebook. Color it and be detailed. Keep an eye on the details, just as a writer would. Date it and save it! You will do this again in week five. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ If you have colored pencils or paint, draw a picture of an outside summer object on the sidewalk. (i.e.; beach ball, basketball, flower, water can, etc) Have an adult take a picture of it and develop it. Tape or glue it in your writer's notebook and write about it. BE CREATIVE! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Go outside and sit. Close your eyes and listen carefully. Make a list (you know that writers LOVE lists) of all the things YOU HEAR!!! Do this for a couple of minutes. Take the sounds and words you heard and create one or two poems! Do this for a day or two. It will be great!! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Writers write! They write everyday whether it is a long entry, a small quote, what someone said, or a short idea! During this week, you will make an entry for each day. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Remember: Living a writer's life will only make you a stronger writer. I can't wait to see how much you have grown in your writing! YOU GUYS ARE WRITING ROCK STARS!!!

Reader's Activity Choices Week One: (pick one & initial it):

- ❑ Read the WEEK ONE POEM several times. In your Writer's Notebook write the poems title down and draw a picture of what you are visualizing in your head (that mental movie maker). Try and be very detailed. On another page, write a paragraph explaining why you drew that picture. What words popped out as a reader and writer? How did the poem make you feel? What do you think the poet meant? Please explain. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Read the short story labeled WEEK ONE. Underline all of the important information and then pick a response activity to go along with it. BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN WITH THIS ONE! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Pick a book that is "just right" for you! Read 40 minutes and then email me telling me the following features of the book: Title - Author - What page you are on. - Why you picked the book - Questions you have - Great words that are interesting or confusing.
** My email address is :stacey@twowritingteachers.com. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Reading is a wonderful journey! It can take you places; you can meet new people, and learn more about the world! I am so excited you are on this adventure. Dive into that sea of books; don't come up for a breath until you are ready!

WEEK TWO: "INVESTIGATING THE WORLD AROUND YOU"

We are now on our next journey adventure seekers. This week you will need to do some exploring. Don't worry! You needn't go far, the back or front yard, the park, or the lake will do. Do some investigating this week- look for those tiny things that we take for granted. Look deeper and closer than you have ever before!

Writer's Activity Choices Week Two (pick one and initial):

- ❑ Go in your back or front yard or to a local park. Pick up a small flower, rock, blade of grass, leaf, stick, or some natural object that we often see a lot of. In your W.N. draw that object as if it is under a HUGE MAGNIFYING GLASS! Be detailed with every knick, color, or strand it may have. Somewhere on the page make a list of words that describe what you are seeing, feeling, smelling, or possibly may be hearing! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ In your W.N. make an entry that describes a place that you think would be the PERFECT place to live. Make sure you tell about what it looks like, things to do there, and people or animals that live there. You may make a name for that "perfect" place or if it is a place that you have already been to. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ With an adult, get on line and find a world map. After you have done that make a list of all the interesting names you could find. Pick a name and write a short story about living there in your W.N.! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ By now, you should be able to pull up a rock and find many different bugs underneath things. Find a bug and watch it what it does and how it looks. In your W.N. make a poem from these observations. You can even draw the bug!!! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Being a writer means exploring what is around you that may big or small. When we start to notice the tiny things in life, we create a bigger picture in our minds. We start to live through a writer's eye!

Reader's Activity Choices Week Two (pick one and initial):

- ❑ With an adult, go to the library or get on line. Look up a place that you have never heard of or would like to go. In your W.N.B make of list of all the interesting things that you have found about this place. These interesting things could be historical facts, landmarks, places or people who are famous and are from there, etc. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Find WEEK TWO story page. Read the story and pick a response activity to do. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Read 30 minutes in a book that you have been working on. After you have read it, email Ms. Shubitz with the following up-dates: (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
Title & author – Page you are on – Short summary of what's going on.
If you could be one of the characters, who would it be and why?
What is going on that you think is most important right now?

MS. SHUBITZ'S E-MAIL ADDRESS IS: stacey@twowritingteachers.com. (If you don't have e-mail access, then you may send me a letter.)

Reading at times may be challenging. However, this challenge will only make you grow into a life longer learner.
Remember, the one thing that NO ONE can ever take from you is your desire to LEARN!

WEEK THREE: "YOUR MENTOR"

Unless you lived under a rock all year long, you know that I love Jacqueline Woodson's Books. She is such a dynamic writer and can suck a reader into her books with in a split second. You have come to know her through books like Last Summer with Maizon and The Other Side. I hope your week is one of adventure and exploration as you find that person who inspires you!

Writer's Activity Choices Week Three (pick one & initial):

- ❑ Make a list of people who you look up to. Go over this list several times. What about the people you listed made them role models? What qualities do you like about them? Make an entry in your WN and make sure you date and title it. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ With an adult, go to the library and find an author that you think would be a good mentor for your writing. Check the book out and write down the title, the author, and all the qualities of writing that you like about that author. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Interview a parent, a grandparent, or a family member. Ask them the following questions & reflect on your conversation. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
 - ❑ Who was your role model growing up?
 - ❑ What characteristics did they have that you thought were important?
 - ❑ What do you think are important aspects of a role model?

Reader's Activity Choices Week Three (pick one & initial):

- ❑ Read for thirty minutes in your just right book. E-mail me the following thoughts: - What do you thinking about the story so far? BE SPECIFIC. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
What do find interesting or unusual about the characters?
EMAIL ME AT stacey@twowritingteachers.com or send me a letter.
- ❑ Write a letter to the author giving your thoughts, ideas, and opinions about the story. Make sure that you support your thoughts with evidence from the text. Put it in your writer's notebook. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Complete one of the Reading Response Activities listed at the end of this packet. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Get three or four picture books by the same author from the library. Use the AUTHOR STUDY DATA TABLE (similar to the Data Wall we used for the Polacco Study) to really dive into the author's work & answer the questions. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Reading is more than finishing a book. Reading is about living that book, understanding the ideas, meaning, and thoughts beyond the pages. Thinking deeper and challenging your mind- THAT IS WHAT READING IS!

Author Study Data Table

Author's Name: _____

Setting				
Main Characters				
Secondary Characters				
Problem				
Resolution				
Illustrations (type/feeling they provoke)				

WEEK FOUR: READING & WRITING GO HAND IN HAND!

This year we have discussed about reading like a writer and reading with a passionate heart. I think what we have come to learn is that reading and writing go hand in hand. You can't have one without the other! This week, you are challenged to connect to this idea. The adventures are in one category, and you only have to do one activity. THIS WEEK IS A CHALLENGE & I AM SO EXCITED THAT YOU ARE GROWING THIS SUMMER!!! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

Challenge: This week I want you to get SEVERAL PICTURE BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR!!!!!! (You may have to go to the library.) During the week I want you to do the following in your WRITER'S NOTEBOOK:

- Write down the AUTHOR & all the TITLES
- Before you read write about what you notice about the covers and some (like the first two-three pages).
- Read the books as a reader. (ENJOY IT!)
- After you are done, pick up the book now and look at it as a writer. Jot down the following thoughts...
 - *What are some of the things you noticed as a writer?
 - *Where their any repeating phrases, words, lines?
 - *Where the illustrations similar? Did they have a pattern?
 - *What did you find interesting? Confusing? Different?
 - *Was there anything that connected these books together because of the authors writing? (REMEMER IT DOESN'T have to be just the words, but the theme, ideas, etc)
 - * After you are done, tell me what you enjoyed about this author's work. Why?
(Initial here, _____, if you did this week's challenge – no "options" this week.)

Reading and writing have a close bond. They work together to form a wonderful life. A life that leads us to understanding something bigger and better each time we visit the pages of a book!

WEEK FIVE: GENRE CRAZY!!!

GENRES ARE VARIOUS TYPES OF LITERATURE!

This past year you learned that reading various genres such a mystery, fiction, non-fiction, biography, science fiction, fantasy, and other pieces of literature keep us aware of all types of writing! This week will lead you on a GENRE ADVENTURE! You will look at different pieces of literature and see the beauty in all of them! GOOD LUCK MY ADVENTURE SEEKERS!

Writer's Activity Choices Week Five (pick one & put your initials):

- ❑ Pick one genre of writing: narrative-fiction-feature article-poetry-persuasive, etc. In your WRITER'S NOTEBOOK work on a piece of writing from that genre. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ In your WRITER'S NOTEBOOK, make several lists comparing how each type of writing is similar and different. Why are each so important and what are the purposes of each type of writing. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Pick a writing genre and make a small entry everyday this week about that genre. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Reader's Activity Choices Week Five (pick one & put your initials):

- ❑ Pick a genre this week to read. In your Writer's Notebook, write down the following: BOOK-TITLE- GENRE. Write down some of your thoughts about the genre. Make sure that you are VERY SPECIFIC and detailed! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Read a genre and do a response activity by completing one of the Reading Response Activities listed at the end of this packet. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Try to challenge your reading by looking at various genres.

WEEK SIX: WHAT I LOVE AND HATE ABOUT SUMMER

Can you have already completed five adventures? Five down, five to go!

You're at the halfway point of your summer vacation. Kind of reminds me of Douglas Florian's Poems, "What I Love About Summer" and "What I Hate About Summer." Therefore, this week's adventure is based-off of Florian's Poems from Summersaults.

Writer's Activity Choices Week Six (pick one & put your initials):

- ❑ Brainstorm two lists, "What I love about summer," and "What I hate about summer." Then, using all of the poetry skills you learned this year, and Florian's Poems as mentors, write your own, "What I Love About Summer" and "What I Hate About Summer" Poems. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Interview at least two adults about what they used to do during the summer when they were young. Then, write a short piece that highlights the differences between "old school" summers and the way you spend your summer now. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Reader's Activity Choices Week Six: (pick one & initial it):

- ❑ Go to the library and ask them for picture books that are set in the summertime. Read them and let the books take you to different destinations around the world. Then, create a travel brochure showing some of the places you "visited" when reading this summer. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Read at least two of the books listed below. (Your local library should have each of these picture books.) Then, using the artistic medium of your choice, illustrate two pictures from your favorite scenes in each of the books you read. On the back of the piece of paper, explain what's happening and why that scene was your favorite.
 - Freedom Summer by Deborah Wiles
 - Hot City by Barbara M. Joosee
 - Hot Day on Abbott Avenue by Karen English
 - Painting the Wind by Patricia and Emily MacLachlan
 - Summertime Waltz by Nina Payne
 - The Pink House at the Seashore by Deborah Blumenthal
 - Think Cool Thoughts by Elizabeth Perry(Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

WEEK SEVEN: DNC and RNC

The Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention are rapidly approaching. The Democrats will meet in Denver later this month, while the Republicans will gather in Minneapolis in early September. With just a few months left until our Presidential Election, it's time for you to learn more about the candidates.

Writer's Activity Choices Week Seven (pick one & put your initials):

- ❑ What do you believe in? What do you think are the most important issues facing our country right now? What concerns you about this country? Write your responses to these questions in your writer's notebook. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Ever imagine what it would be like to be the President of the United States? Wonder like crazy... Let your imagination run wild. Then, write a few entries (or craft a story) about what you think your life would be like if you were the President of the United States, living in the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Write like your pencil's on-fire! (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Reader's Activity Choices Week Seven: (pick one & initial it):

- ❑ Go online to <http://www.demconvention.com/convention-101/> and to <http://www.gopconvention.com/about/default.aspx> to learn more about the National Conventions. (These sites are also available in Spanish by going to <http://www.demconvention.com/convenccion-101/?lang=es> and <http://www.gopconvention.com/enespanol/default.aspx>, respectively.) Then, send me an e-mail explaining what you think the differences are between the Democratic and Republican Parties' Conventions based on what you read.
EMAIL ME AT stacey@twowritingteachers.com.
(Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Go to the library and check out books on at least two presidents. Then, write me a reader's letter telling me which one you admire more and why. Be sure that you include at least three things you admire about him, based on what you read about his time as president. (For instance, if I were writing about President Johnson, I'd tell you why I admire all of the things he did with regard to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.) (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

WEEK EIGHT: Fiction

We wrote short fiction picture books earlier this year. The picture books you created were delightful to read. This week, adventure-seekers, you'll be reading and writing fiction, a genre I know we all love.

Writer's Activity Choices Week Eight (pick one & put your initials):

- ❑ Craft a short story that you'd like to publish in a magazine, such as New Moon or Launch Pad.
- ❑ EMAIL ME AT stacey@twowritingteachers.com or send me your draft at my New Jersey address. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Revise the picture book you published earlier this year. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Scholastic hosts a contest called "Kids As Authors," which gives children the chance to become published authors.
 - Go to their site to learn more by pointing your browser to http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/contest/kaa_about.asp.
 - Start brainstorming book ideas by answering some of the questions (listed on the Kids As Authors Website) in your writer's notebook:
 - Who? Discuss possible characters to include in the story.
 - Where? In what setting does the story take place? Are there a variety of settings involved?
 - When? What is the time period of your story: present day, the future, the past or a combination?
 - What? What is going to happen in their story? What is the problem or conflict?
 - Why? What is the purpose of the story: to educate and inform, to entertain, or a combination? What response do you want from the reader: to make them laugh, cry, understand a different view point or opinion?
 - How? How is the problem or conflict resolved?
(Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

Reader's Activity Choices Week Eight: (pick one & initial it):

- ❑ Create a mini book club! Read a fiction text with a parent or sibling on your just-right level. Make plans to spend some one-on-one time with the person you select to discuss the book and your thoughts, reactions, and feelings to it. (Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)
- ❑ Read one of Scholastic's Top Summer Reading Picks. Here's an abridged list (the whole list can be found online at <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3749301>.) Make sure the book is just-right for you. When you're finished reading it, complete one of the Reading Response Activities listed at the back of this packet.
 - Good Masters, Sweet Ladies by Laura Amy Schlitz
 - Julia Gillian by Alison McGhee
 - The Wild Girls by Pat Murphy
 - The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry(Initial here, _____, if you select this option.)

WEEKS NINE AND TEN: SUMMER'S END

Your summer adventure is almost to an end. The next adventure is almost here... FIFTH GRADE. It will be different. I will expect more, want more, and challenge your thoughts, behavior, and ideas more. You are all such smart, smart students. You have stretched yourself; I am proud.

The last few weeks will be different. The next few weeks, I want you to do the following:

IN READING:

Just read, read, read, read!!! Remember how we talked about readers dive into that sea of books and just come up for air now and then?? Well, do exactly that kiddos! Find those books you love and fall into that wonderful world. The only thing that I ask is that you log your books that you read. Remember log it by: TITLE – AUTHOR – GENRE – EASY, JUST RIGHT, CHALLENGING. (USE THE BOOK LOG!)

IN WRITING:

MAKE AN ENTRY EVERY DAY!!! IT CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT! NOW IS THE TIME TO LIVE YOUR LIFE LIKE A WRITER! BE THAT PERSON I KNOW YOU CAN BE!!!

YOU NEED TO DO THE FOLLOWING BEFORE YOU COME BACK TO SCHOOL:

- Put anything that you have done in the CHALLENGE ENVELOPE I GAVE YOU!
- TURN IN YOUR PACKET AND WRITER'S NOTEBOOK ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!

Fifth Grade Survival Kits will only be given to students who turn in a packet with at least 50% of the items completed, along with all of the supporting materials listed in each week's challenge (if applicable).

See you soon!!!

What I've Read This Summer

- Write the names of each book, newspaper, or magazine article you read.
- Write the name of the author, illustrator (if there is one).
- Write when you read each text.
- Write whether what you read was fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.
- Write why you liked or didn't like what you read.

Title	Author/Illustrator	Date Read	Fiction, Nonfiction, or Poetry	I liked/didn't like what I read because...

Reading Response Activities

- Prepare a chart showing the characters, their relationships and a few biographical facts about each.
- Keep a diary of one of the characters in the story, using the first person.
- Write a letter to each author of a book I read telling why I liked the book, my favorite parts and what I would have done with the plot.
- Pretend to be a literary critic and I'll write a review of each book I read for the "Book Review" Section.
- Write a biography of a leading character or person I learned about, using information from a book I read.
- Compare the movie version and the book using a Venn-Diagram.
- Pretend I am the owner of a toy company and will plan a line of toys (e.g., dolls, board games, posters, DVD's, coloring books, etc.) based on the book.
- Put together a collage based on a character or event in my book.
- Write and illustrate travel brochures based on the adventures of a book character or person I read about.
 - I will create a travel poster showing important locations in the story.
- Write and illustrate an A-Z picture book that shows what I've learned.
- Write and publish a book review at BookHooks.com.

If you choose to do any of these activities, then you MUST print it out and give me a copy of it when you return in September in order to receive your Survival Pack. Unfortunately, I will not be able to print anything you do for this project.

Looking For More Things To Do?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Go to ReadWriteThink's Website and explore all of the reading and writing activities they have.
 - a. Just go to:
http://www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer/grades3_5/
2. Write online book reviews. Here are some places that will accept quality reviews written by kids (i.e., perfect GUMS).
 - a. BookHooks
 - i. <http://bookhooks.com/write.cfm>
 - b. KidsBookshelf
 - i. http://www.kidsbookshelf.com/index.php?option=com_chrono_contact&chronoformname=Submit_Book_Review&Itemid=64
3. Play Games Online
 - a. Reading Games: <http://bookhooks.com/games.cfm>
 - b. Math Games: <http://staceyshubitz.pbwiki.com/f/Games.xls>
4. Create your first resume
 - a. <http://careerkids.com/resume2.html>
 - b. You can print out as many copies as you'd like once you fill-in the template.
5. Read about new paperback book releases at http://www.kidsreads.com/features/NIP_index.asp or books that were recently made into movies at <http://www.kidsreads.com/features/books2movies.asp>.
6. Scholastic Stuff:
 - a. Join the Flashlight Readers Book Club
 - i. http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/flashlightreaders/K_landingPage.asp
 - b. Learn more about authors and illustrators!
 - i. <http://www.scholastic.com/titles/authors/>