

June 2026

Dear rising 7th-grade student,

This year's summer work offers reading choices, has you applying your understanding of plot, and requires a bit of reflection on the first year of actively serving others.

Reading Choices:

<input type="checkbox"/> <u>Librarian's Choice Options</u> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cardinal Newman list Options</u>	1) <u>Creative "Shelfie" list of books you read - list title & # of points the book is worth!</u> 15 points required 	2) <u>Create a plot diagram for your favorite book read over the summer</u> <i>(rubric)</i>
NF or Fiction	2 points	<i>100 - 249 pages</i>
NF or Fiction	3 points	<i>250 - 499 pages</i>
NF or Fiction	4 points	<i>500+ page book</i>
Medal winners	4 points	<i>needs to be 100+ pages & appropriate for ages 9+</i>
Books not from list options	2 points	<i>needs to be 100+ pages & appropriate for ages 9+</i>

Writing: Hope Ministries Service Reflection; rubric

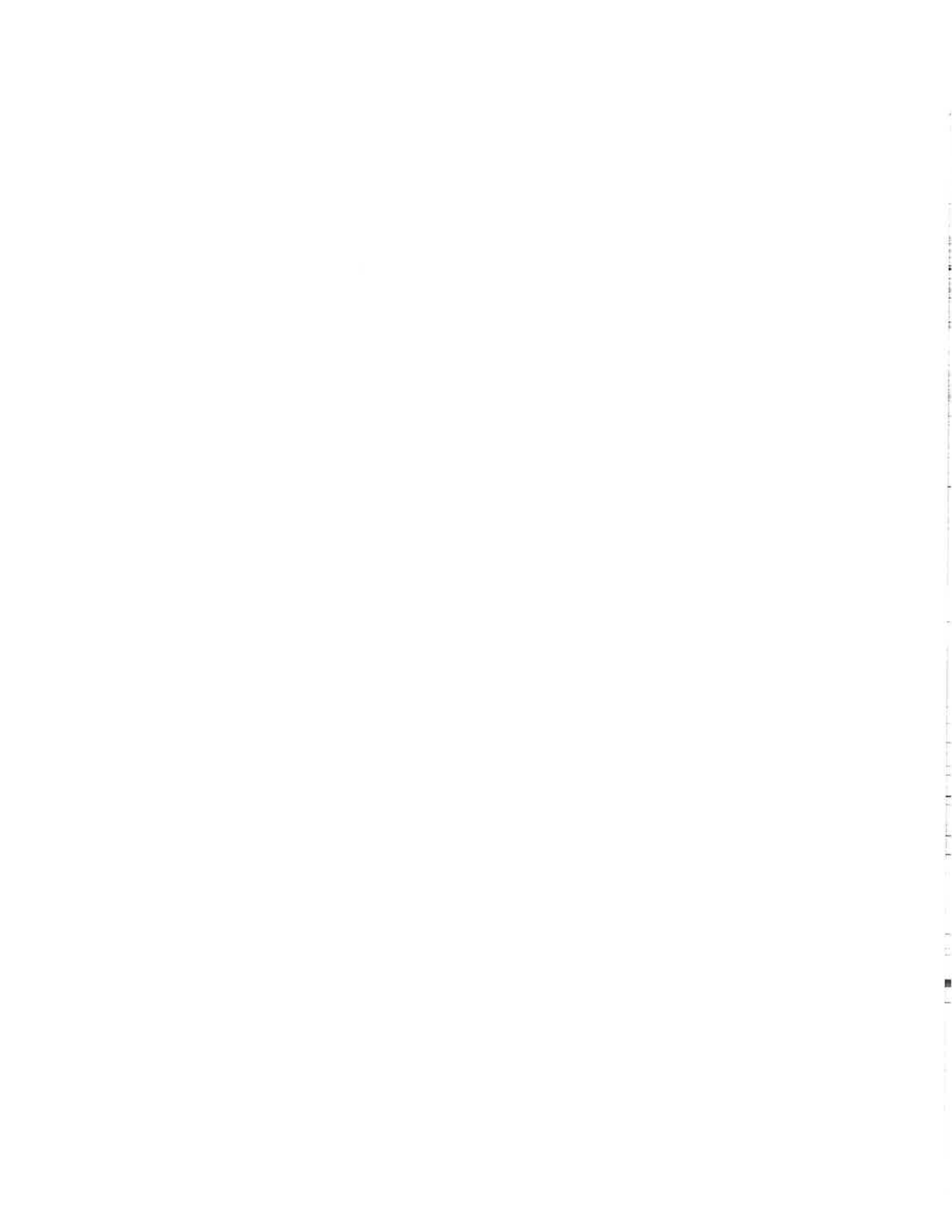
<p><u>Summerwork Recap & Points</u></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Reading book options (record on your choice <i>shelfie</i>) = 15 points (Literature grade) <input type="checkbox"/> A <u>plot diagram</u> for your favorite book read this summer (<i>rubic</i>) = 20 points (Literature grade) <input type="checkbox"/> A service reflection: <u>reflection & short narrative</u> (<i>rubic</i>) = 30 points (ELA grade) Total points = 65 points Start the year with a solid A+ or a 0; the choice is up to you!	
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Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

JH ELA Teachers

St. Joseph Grade School



Summer Book Recommendations for 5th-8th Grade

Books with an asterisk (*) are medal winners!

2026:

The Lemonade War Graphic Novel - Jacqueline Davies
A Day at the Beach - Gary D. Schmidt and Ron Koertge
Blood in the Water - Tiffany D. Jackson
Free State of Jax - Jennifer A. Nielsen
Return to Sender - Vera Brosgol
* *Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest* - Aubrey Hartman
Meet Me at Wonderland - Julia DeVillers
Each and Every Spark - Claire Swinarski
Enemies in the Orchard - Dana VaderLugt
How to Say Goodbye in Cuban - Daniel Miyares
Second Life of Snap - Erin Entrada Kelly
The Unlikely Tale of Chase & Finnegan - Jasmine Warga
Secrets of a Broken House - Taryn Souders
* *The Teacher of Nomad Land* - Daniel Nayeri
* *The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli* - Karina Yan Glaser
Pocket Bear - Katherine Applegate
Freedom Seeker - Ruchira Gupta
Last Resort - Erin Entrada Kelly
* *All the Blues in the Sky* - Renee Watson
Wilderness Hacks - Joslin Brorsen
Past Watchful Dragons: Biblical Stories Retold - Rose John Sheffler
* *A Sea of Lemon Trees* - Maria Dolores Aguila

2025:

How to Stay Invisible - Maggie C. Rudd
* *Louder Than Hunger* - John Shu
* *Popcorn* - Rob Harrell
Glitch - Laura Martin
Max and the Land of Lies - Adam Gidwitz
Chickenpox - Remy Lai
Last Dragon on Mars - Scott Reintgen

Summer Book Recommendations for 5th-8th Grade

Happy and Sad and Everything True - Alex Thayer

Library Girl - Polly Horvath

The Shadow of his Wings: A Graphic Biography of Fr. Gereon Goldman - Max Temescu

Muhammad Najem: War Reporter - Muhammad Najem and Nora Neus

Keeping the Pace - Laurie Morrison

Not Quite a Ghost - Anne Ursu

Bletchley Riddle - Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin

* *I Must Betray You* - Ruta Sepetys

* *Will's Race For Home* - Jewell Parker Rhodes

Westfallen - Ann Brashares and Ben Brashares

Once For Yes - Allie Millington

* *One Big Open Sky* - Lesa Cline-Ransome

2024:

* *Brother's Keeper* - Julie Lee

Across the Desert - Dusti Bowling

Heroes: A Novel of Pearl Harbor - Alan Gratz

Tree. Table. Book. - Lois Lowry

Ferris - Kate DiCamillo

* *Elf Dog and Owl Head* - M.T. Anderson

Nothing Else But Miracles - Kate Albus

The Wild River and the Great Dam: The Construction of Hoover Dam and the Vanishing Colorado River - Simon Boughton

The Night War - Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Max in the House of Spies: A Tale of World War II - Adam Gidwitz

Hope in the Valley - Mitali Perkins

Alebrijes - Donna Barba Higuera

Lines of Courage - Jennifer Nielsen

The Woman in the Trees - Theoni Bell

* *Across So Many Seas* - Ruth Behar

* *Eagle Drums* - Nasugraq Raney Hopson

Chirp - Kate Messner

The Phantom of the Colosseum: In the Shadows of Rome (Vol 1) - Sophie de Mullenheim

Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon (Graphic Novel)

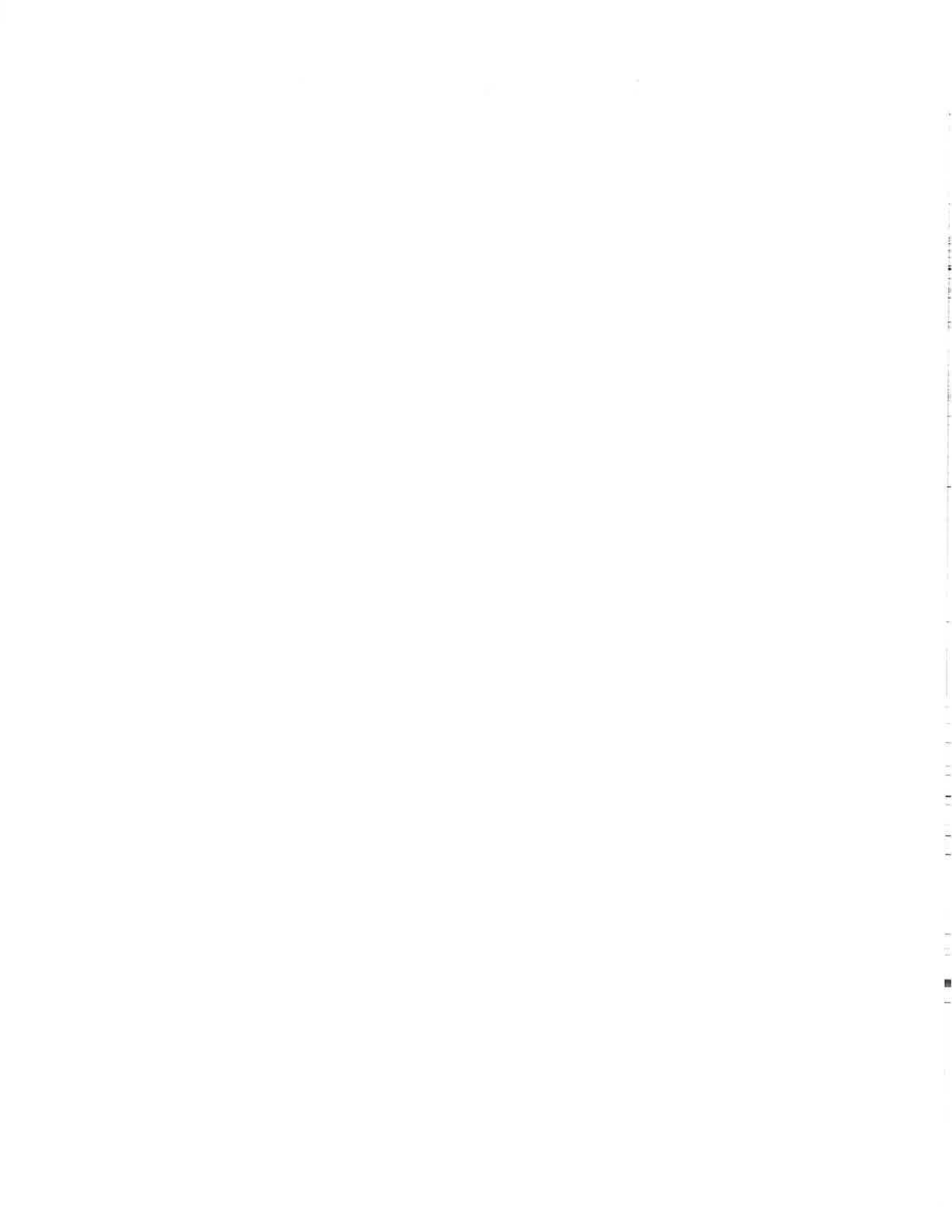
- Steve Sheinkin

Summer Book Recommendations for 5th-8th Grade

- * *The Fire, The Water, and Maudie McGinn* - Sally J. Pla
- Warrior on the Mound* - Sandra W. Headen
- * *Brave Water* - Sarah Robsdottir

2023:

- * *Before the Ever After* - Jacqueline Woodson
- * *Wolf Hollow* - Lauren Wolk
- * *A First Time for Everything* - Dan Santat
- * *The Last Mapmaker* - Christina Soontornvat
- The DarkDeep* - Ally Condie
- Duet for Home* - Karina Yan Glaser
- 96 Miles* - J.L. Esplin
- They Called Us Enemy* - George Takei
- The Midnight Children* - Dan Gemeinhart
- * *The Only Road* - Alexandra Diaz
- Reaching for The Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson*
- * *White Bird* - R.J. Palacio
- * *The Star That Always Stays* - Anna Rose Johnson
- A Pocket Full of Murder* - R.J. Anderson
- * *The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams* - Daniel Nayeri
- How to Steal a Dog* - Barbara O'Connor
- * *Everything Sad is Untrue* - Daniel Nayeri
- The Benefits of Being an Octopus* - Ann Braden
- * *Freewater* - Amina Luqman-Dawson



5th-8th Reading List - *The Cardinal Newman Society*

7 Riddles to Nowhere (Cattapan)	Homer Price (McCloskey)	Patron Saint of First Communicants (Windeatt)
A Horse and the Boy (Lewis)	I Am David (Holm)	Penrod and others (Tarkington)
A Christmas Carol (Dickens)	I, Juan de Pareja (de Treviño)	Pied Piper of Hamelin (Browning)
A Story of Joan of Arc (Earnest)	If All the Swords in England (Willard)	Pygmalion (Shaw)
A Wrinkle in Time (L'Engle)	Johnny Tremain (Forbes)	Radiate: More Stories of Daring Teen Saints (Swaim)
Abilaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints (Swaim)	Journey to the Center of the Earth (Verne)	Redwall series (Jacques)
Adam of the Road (Gray)	Kidnapped (Stevenson)	Rip Van Winkle (Irving)
Amos Fortune, Free Man (Yates)	King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table (Green)	Robin Hood (Pyle)
Anne of Green Gables (Montgomery)	Kon-Tiki (Heyerdahl)	Robinson Crusoe (Defoe)
Around the World in Eighty Days (Verne)	Lay Siege to Heaven (de Wohl)	Saint Catherine of Siena (Forbes)
Beowulf: A New Telling (Nye)	Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Irving)	Saint Dominic (Windeatt)
Black Beauty (Sewell)	Leif the Lucky (D'Aulaire)	Saint Hyacinth of Poland (Windeatt)
Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad(Lee)	Lilies of the Field (Barrett)	Saint John Masias (Windeatt)
Blessed Marie of New France (Windeatt)	Little House in the Big Woods (Wilder)	Saint Martin de Porres (Windeatt)
Break in the Basilica (Ahern)	Little Women; Little Men (Alcott)	Saint Monica (Forbes)
Caddie Woodlawn (Brink)	Log of a Cowboy (Adams)	Saint Rose of Lima (Windeatt)
Captain Courageous (Kipling)	Lost in St. Peter's Tomb (Ahern)	Saint Thomas Aquinas (Windeatt)
Cyrano de Bergerac (Rostand)	Madeleine Takes Command (Brill & Adams)	Sarah Plain and Tall (Wilder)
Death Comes for the Archbishop (Cather)	Midshipman Easy; Masterman Ready (Marryat)	Secrets of Siena (Ahern)
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Stevenson)	Misty of Chincoteague (Henry)	Son of Charlemagne (Willard)
Fingal's Quest (Pollard)	My Antonia (Cather)	St. Benedict, Hero of the Hills (Windeatt)
Freckles (Porter)	My Side of the Mountain (George)	St. Joan, The Girl Soldier (De Wohl)
Hans Brinker (Dodge)	Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Douglass)	St. Patrick (Tompert)
Heidi (Spyri)	Old Yeller (Gipson)	St. Thomas Aquinas for Children (Maritain)
Hero of the Hills (Windeatt)	Our Town (Wilder)	Story of a Bad Boy (Aldrich)
Holy Twins: Benedict and Scholastica (Norris)	Outlaws of Ravenhurst (Wallace)	Swallows and Amazons (Ransome)
		Swiss Family Robinson (Wyss)

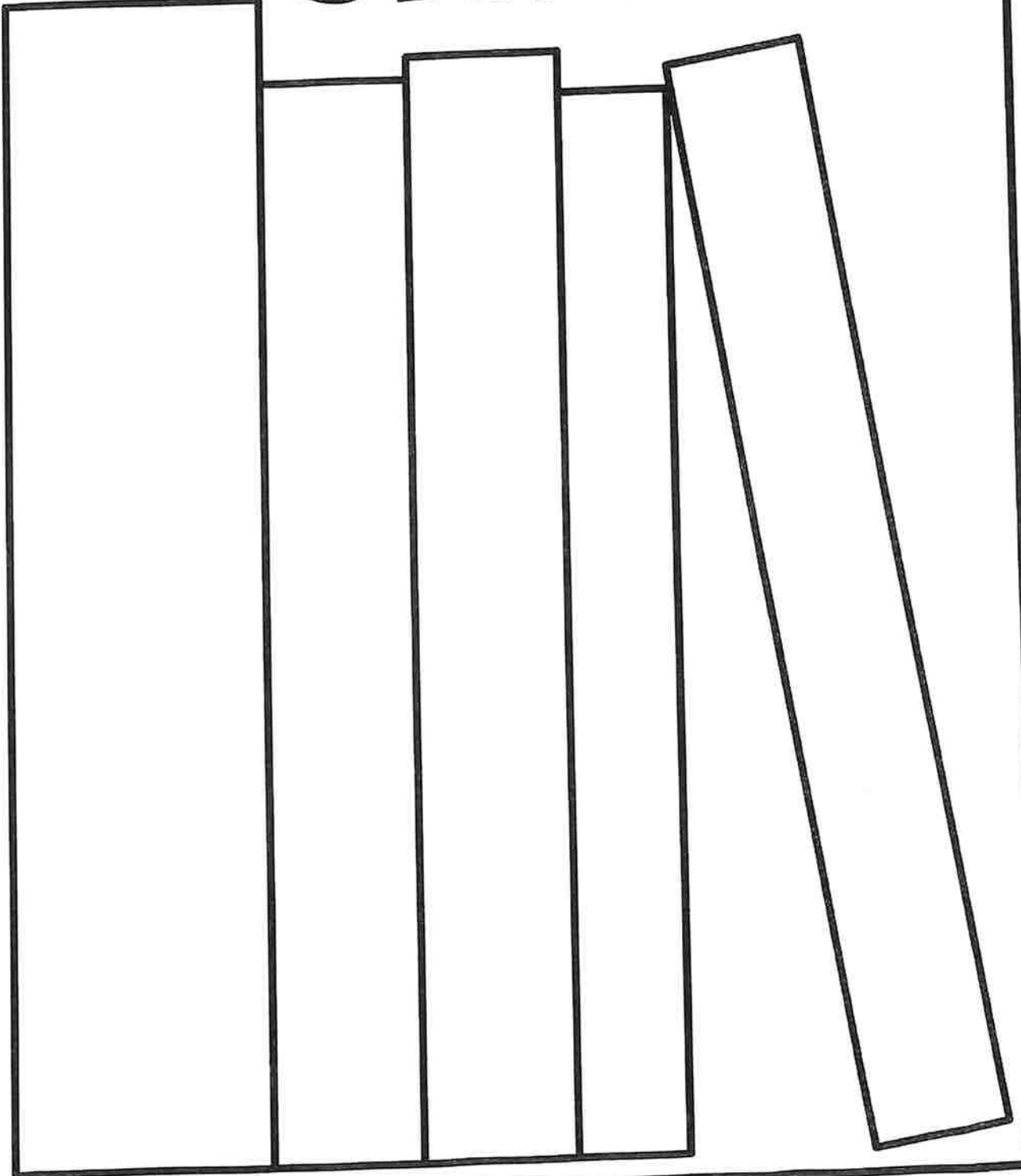
Tales of King Arthur (Talbot)
 Tanglewood Tales (Hawthorne)
 Tarzan Series (Burroughs)
 The Adventures of Robin Hood (Green)
 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (Doyle)
 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Twain)
 The Black Arrow (Stephenson)
 The Black Cauldron (Alexander)
 The Blood Red Crescent (Garnett)
 The Boxcar Children (Warner)
 The Bronze Bow (Speare)
 The Call of the Wild (London)
 The Children of Fatima (Windeatt)
 The Children's Homer (Colum)
 The Chronicles of Narnia (Lewis)
 The Crucible (Miller)
 The Fellowship of the Ring (Tolkien)
 The Hiding Place (ten Bloom)
 The Hobbit (Tolkien)
 The Hound of the Baskervilles (Doyle)
 The Innocence of Father Brown [or others] (Chesterton)
 The Island of the Blue Dolphins (O'Dell)
 The Jungle Book (Kipling)
 The Lord of the Rings (Tolkien)
 The Last Battle (Lewis)
 The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (Irving)
 The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe (Lewis)

The Little Flower (Windeatt)
 The Living Wood (De Wohl)
 The Miracle Worker (Gibson)
 The Miraculous Medal (Windeatt)
 The Phantom Tollbooth (Juster)
 The Pearl (Steinbeck)
 The Ransom of Red Chief and other short stories (O. Henry)
 The Railway Children (Nesbit)
 The Red Badge of Courage (Crane)
 The Red Keep (French)
 The Restless Flame (de Wohl)
 The Secret Garden (Burnett)
 The Song at the Scaffold (Von le Fort)
 The Spear: A Novel of the Crucifixion (De Wohl)
 The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Walsh)
 The Story of Roif and the Viking Bow (French)
 The Swiss Family Robinson (Wyss)
 The Tale of Despereaux (DeCamillo)
 The Trumpeter of Krakow (Kelly)
 The Twenty-One Balloons (Du Bois)

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (Lewis)
 The Wanderings of Odysseus: The Story of the Odyssey (Lee)
 The Weight of the Mass (Nobisso)
 The White Stag (Seredy)
 The Wind in the Willows (Grahame)
 The Winged Watchman (van Stockum)
 The Witch of Blackbird Pond (Speare)
 The Yearling (Rawlings)
 Thomas Aquinas & the Preaching Beggars (Larnen & Lomask)
 Tommy Playfair (Finn)
 Treasure Island (Stevenson)
 Trumpeter of Krakow (Kelly)
 Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (Verne)
 Two Years Before the Mast (Dana)
 Uncle Tom's Cabin (Stowe)
 Westward Ho (Kingsley)
 Where the Red Fern Grows (Rawlis)
 White Fang (London)
 Will Wilder Series (Arroyo)z

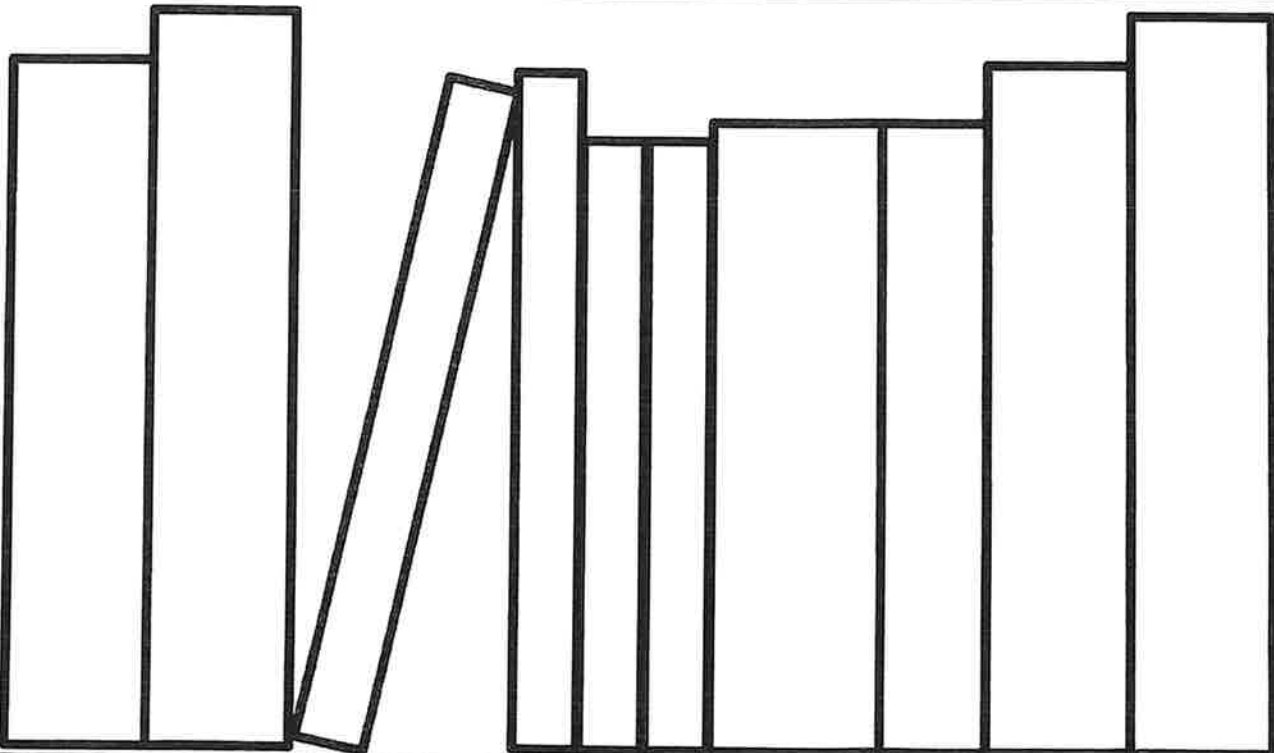
My

SHELFIE



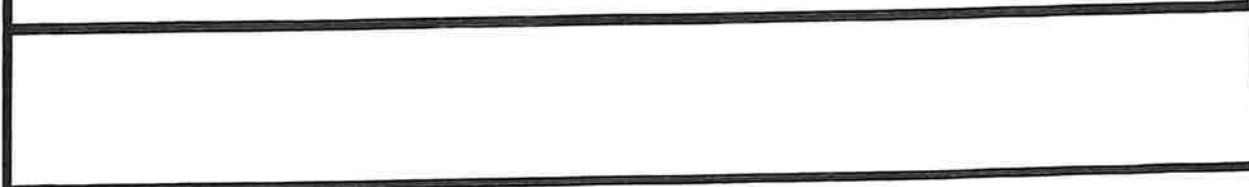
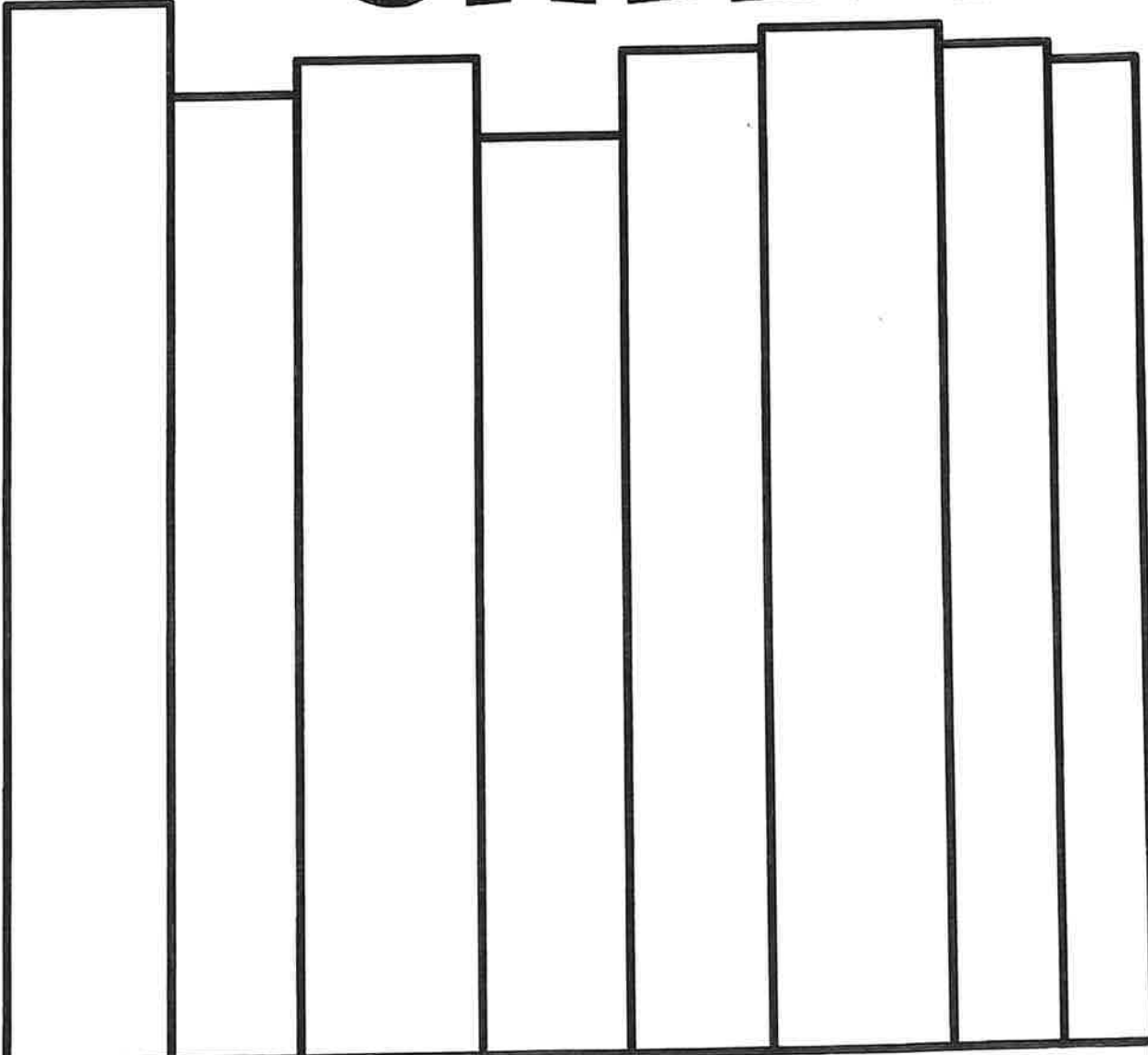
My

SHELFIE



My

SHELFIE



Oh, Snap!

HERE'S
WHAT
I'VE
READ!

A large rectangular area with a thick black border, containing seven horizontal lines for writing, arranged in a slightly staggered, descending order from top to bottom.

**SWEET, SWEET
SUMMER TIME!**

Name: _____

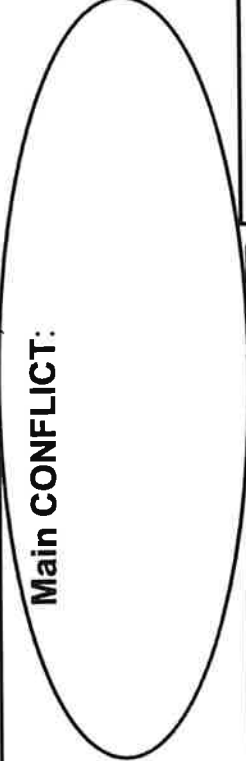
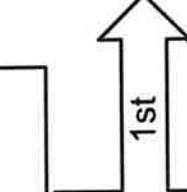
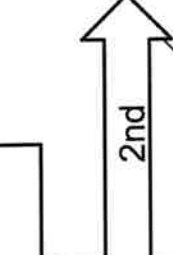
RISING ACTION (events that build the suspense):

1st

2nd

3rd

CLIMAX (TURNING POINT):



FALLING ACTION (events that help to wrap-up the story):

1. _____
2. _____



RESOLUTION (how the conflict is solved):

DENOUEMENT (All revealed/wrapped up)

PROTAGONIST VS. ANTAGONIST

_____ VS. _____

EXPOSITION (sets story up)

Setting:

tone & mood:

Characters:

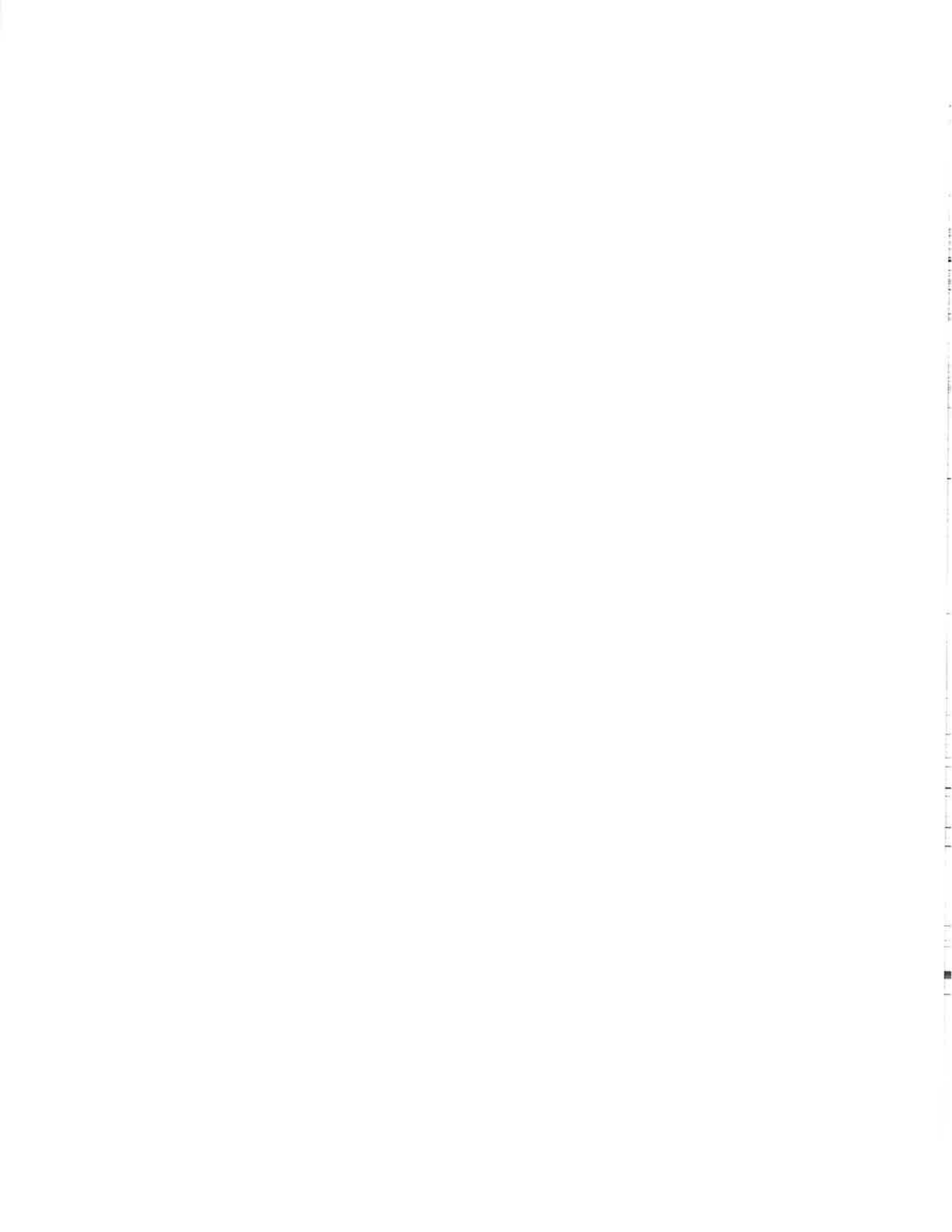
Inciting Incident:

THEME(s) - (Message or life lesson the AUTHOR wants the reader to learn):

PLOT

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____



Project or Assignment: Plot Diagram Poster

	10 - 9 Exceeds	8 - 7 Approaching	6 & below Needs Work	0 Student did not complete the work
Reflection Content	Student effectively filled out all elements of the plot on the diagram, thereby demonstrating a thorough understanding of the novel chosen.	Student filled out the majority of elements of the plot on the diagram, thereby demonstrating an understanding of the novel chosen.	Student filled out some of elements of the plot on the diagram, thereby demonstrating somewhat of an understanding of the novel chosen	
Creativity & effort	The student clearly put an extreme amount of effort and creativity into their work! Well Done!	The student put a reasonable amount of effort and creativity into their work. Nice job!	The student chose to quickly complete the work without much effort or creativity.	

Name: _____

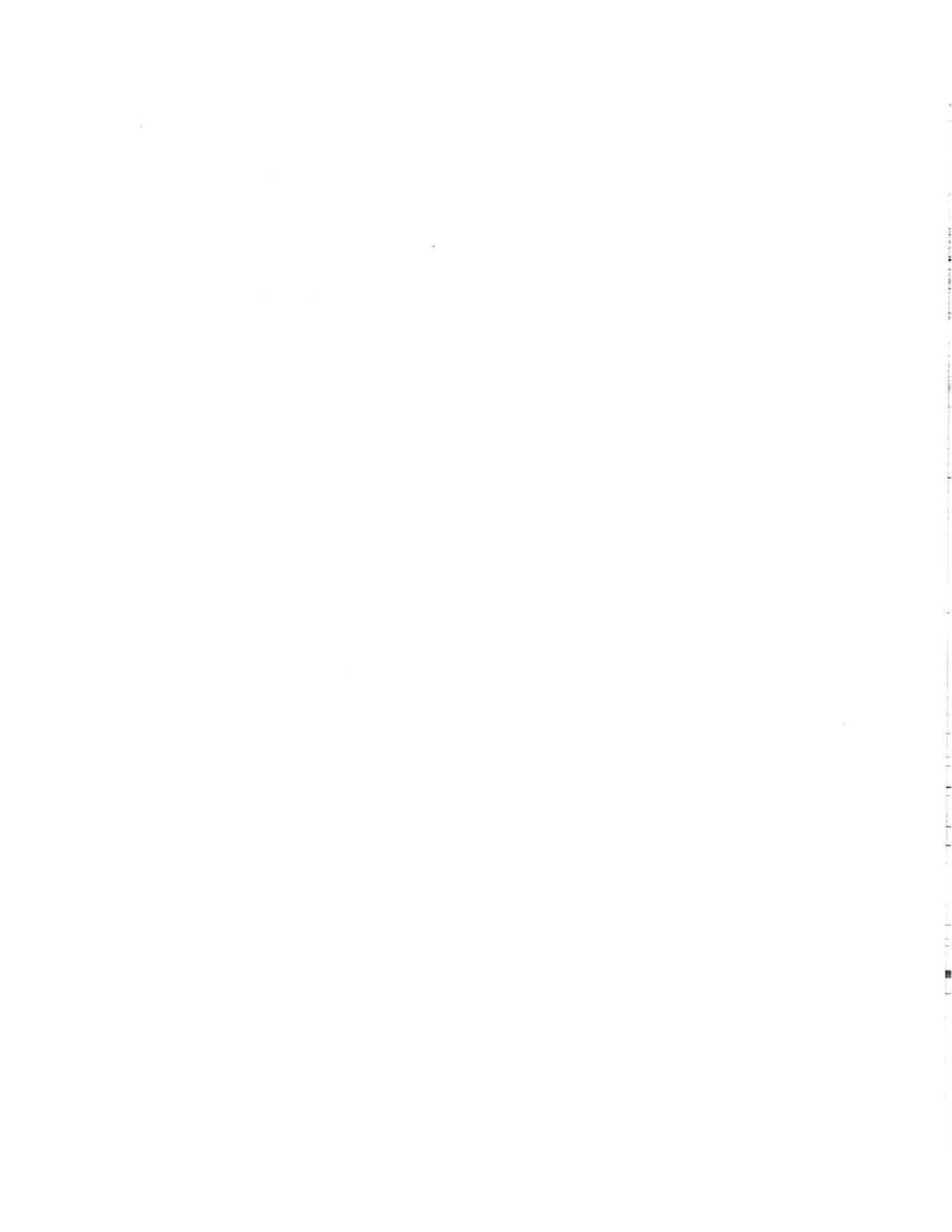
Score: _____ / 20 total points

Project or Assignment: Plot Diagram Poster

	10 - 9 Exceeds	8 - 7 Approaching	6 & below Needs Work	0 Student did not complete the work
Content	Student effectively filled out all elements of the plot on the diagram, thereby demonstrating a thorough understanding of the novel chosen.	Student filled out the majority of elements of the plot on the diagram, thereby demonstrating an understanding of the novel chosen.	Student filled out some of elements of the plot on the diagram, thereby demonstrating somewhat of an understanding of the novel chosen	
Creativity & effort	The student clearly put an extreme amount of effort and creativity into their work! Well Done!	The student put a reasonable amount of effort and creativity into their work. Nice job!	The student chose to quickly complete the work without much effort or creativity.	

Name: _____

Score: _____ / 20 total points



Name:

Part 1: Service Reflection

Serving at Hope Ministries

As you reflect on your time serving at Hope Ministries this past year, consider these questions and use your answers to help you create your response.

- Did something surprise you about your experience?
- What was the most joyful experience of serving at Hope Ministries?
- What did you find difficult? Why?
- What virtues do you feel you used during your time of service? Why?
- Where did you see Christ in your time of service?

Option 1:

Draw a picture AND write a poem
explaining how serving the homeless
population lunch at Hope Ministries
changed you this year:

Option 2:

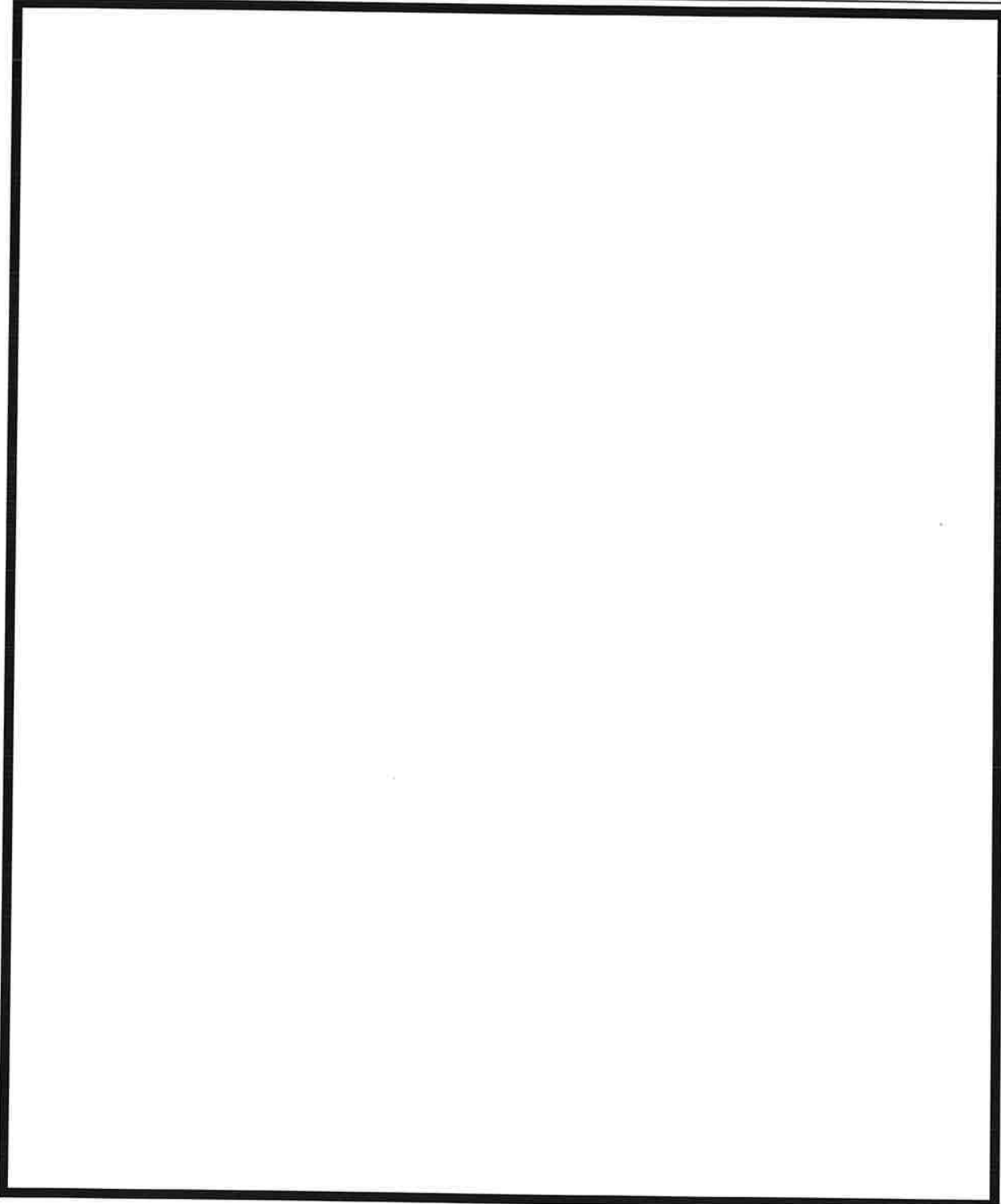
Draw a picture AND write a reflection
explaining how serving the homeless
population lunch at Hope Ministries
changed you this year:



Name:

Part 2: Service in Action

In the space below, draw a picture AND write a short narrative of how you continued, or plan to continue serving others in need.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for a student to draw a picture and write a short narrative about their service in action.

Project or Assignment: 7th Summer Work Writing Reflection

	10 - 9 Exceeds	8 - 7 Approaching	6 & below Needs Work	0 Student did not complete the work
Hope Ministries Reflection	Writing displays a meaningful depth of thought and reflection on the time spent at Hope Ministries. Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure are exceptional.	Writing displays some meaningful thought and reflection on the time spent at Hope Ministries. Only a few grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors.	Writing lacks meaningful thought and reflection on time spent at Hope Ministries. Many grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors.	
Narrative	Writing displays a narrative that is exceptional in ideas, structure, word choice, and grammar.	Writing displays a narrative that develops ideas, structure, word choice, and grammar.	Narrative lacks developed ideas, structure, word choice, and/or grammar.	
Creativity & effort	The student clearly put an extreme amount of effort and creativity into their work! Well Done!	The student put a reasonable amount of effort and creativity into their work. Nice job!	The student chose to quickly complete the work without much effort or creativity.	

Name: _____

Score: _____ / 30 total points

Project or Assignment: Plot Diagram Poster

	10 - 9 Exceeds	8 - 7 Approaching	6 & below Needs Work	0 Student did not complete the work
Hope Ministries Reflection	Writing displays a meaningful depth of thought and reflection on the time spent at Hope Ministries. Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure are exceptional.	Writing displays some meaningful thought and reflection on the time spent at Hope Ministries. Only a few grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors.	Writing lacks meaningful thought and reflection on time spent at Hope Ministries. Many grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors.	
Narrative	Writing displays a narrative that is exceptional in ideas, structure, word choice, and grammar.	Writing displays a narrative that develops ideas, structure, word choice, and grammar.	Narrative lacks developed ideas, structure, word choice, and/or grammar.	
Creativity & effort	The student clearly put an extreme amount of effort and creativity into their work! Well Done!	The student put a reasonable amount of effort and creativity into their work. Nice job!	The student chose to quickly complete the work without much effort or creativity.	

Name: _____

Score: _____ / 30 total points

