

June 1, 2022

Dear incoming fifth graders,

I hope you are looking forward to a great summer! I am planning on a relaxing summer with lots of quiet reading, hiking, canoeing, playing tennis, and working on my house. I'm also keeping honeybees for the first time! I look forward to hearing about your summer adventures when school starts again in the fall.

This summer I would like you to read two particular books. First, you need to read either the Dover Children's Thrift Classics version of *Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, or *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* by Karen Cushman -- you choose! If you have the time, I recommend reading both. Second, everyone needs to read *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*. This overview of Greek mythology will provide background for our study of *The Odyssey*. Please take good care of these books, as they need to be returned to me at the start of the school year for future students to use. In addition to these two assigned books, you should read at least one other book of your choice.

I'm including a short reading response assignment that you need to complete before you come to school in the fall. It will give you the chance to think about what you have read, and will give me a way to begin to get to know you as readers and writers. Please be sure to complete the prompts for the three assigned books **in cursive**, and be sure to bring them to school with you on the first day. We will use your answers for an activity in class. You can write your responses on the pages provided, or on your own lined paper.

In addition to your summer reading, please also complete the cursive practice booklet and the math review packet (if you will be in fifth grade math) and also bring them to school on the first day. You should spread these assignments out over the summer so you aren't stuck doing them all at the last minute. Don't forget to practice your math facts, too!

Enjoy your summer -- I'm really looking forward to being your fifth grade teacher in the coming year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Chappuis
Fifth Grade Teacher



1. Tom Sawyer/The Ballad of Lucy Whipple

Tom and Lucy's childhood is a lot different from yours—or is it? Write a letter to Tom or Lucy. Introduce yourself and tell him/her some of the ways your childhood is similar to and different from his/hers. Tell him/her which parts of your lifestyle you think he/she would enjoy or dislike. Also tell Tom or Lucy which parts of his/her experience you are glad to have avoided, and which parts you think you would have enjoyed. At the end of your letter, feel free to ask him/her to write back, or even to visit us at Crossroads (they probably won't do either one, but it's still polite to extend the invitation)!

2. D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths

The twelve Gods of Olympus have some similarities and differences. Taken as a bunch, they make an interesting group.

In one paragraph (8-12 sentences), try to summarize what these Gods are like. For example, if I were to write a similar summary about Crossroads fifth graders, it might look something like this:

Fifth graders at Crossroads work hard, but they also know how to have fun. They begin each day with smiles, and they have a reputation for telling great jokes. Occasionally they misplace something or forget to do an assignment, but in general they try hard to be responsible. They also try to be kind and respectful to all their classmates and teachers. With such a positive attitude, the sky's the limit when it comes to accomplishments during the fifth grade year!

That paragraph is about you. Now try to write a descriptive paragraph like that about the Gods of Mt. Olympus.

3. Free Choice

For the third book of your own choosing, identify the title and author, and rate the book on a scale of 1 to 10. Then give two good reasons for your rating, and *support each reason with evidence from the book*. For example, if you say the book was suspenseful, what was suspenseful about it?

