



English Department

**Summer
take-away
activities**



**Summer take-away activities to help you in your
new school year from September**

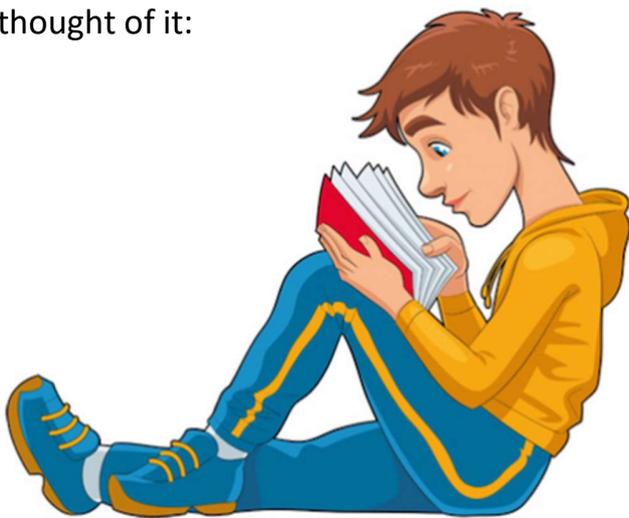
Summer take-away activities to help you in your new school year from September. Some of the activities below are linked specifically to the topics we will be covering in English; some of them are simply just fun ways to help you while away the time!

Year 7 moving into 8:

- **Watch a film** about either heroes or villains (or both). Discuss with your friends and your family what made either (or both) the hero or villain interesting (which could include such things as the choice of costumes, behaviour, things they said etc.). Create a collage of famous heroes and villains.
- **Create and draw a comic book** story which includes a hero and a villain. You can use pictures you have drawn or pictures cut out of magazines, downloaded etc. from the internet.
- **Write a poem** or write a 140-character tweet (characters include spaces) with the theme of 'summertime'.



- **Read a book** (or books) from the suggested list (some of which are worth re-reading if you have already read them) and write a short review explaining and describing what you thought of it:



- Frank Cottrell Boyce, Cosmic
- John Boyne, Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Brocket
- Zizou Corder, Lion Boy
- Morris Gleitzman, Once
- Derek Landy, Skulduggery Pleasant
- Hilary McKay, Binny for Short
- Kenneth Oppell, Silverwing
- Rick Riordan, Percy Jackson
- Ali Sparkes, Carjacked
- Ali Sparkes, Frozen in Time
- Jamie Thomson, Dark Lord series
- Rudyard Kipling, The Jungle Book
- Jack London, The Call of the Wild
- Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows
- Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden

- **Read the same book** as your parent/carer (using the list above for suggestions) and discuss your thoughts about characters, the way the book is written, the plot and the ending etc.

Year 8 moving into 9:



- **Read a book** (or books) from the suggested/recommended reading list below (you may well have read some of these before but which are always worth re-reading) and write a short review explaining and describing your thoughts about it:

- Sarah Crossan, *Weight of Water*
- James Dashner, *Maze Runner*
- Lissa Evans, *Small Change for Stuart*
- Charlie Higson, *The Fear*
- Kim Slater, *Smart*
- Anne Cassidy, *Looking for JJ*
- J. Vance Marshall, *Walkabout*
- H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*
- H.G. Wells, *War of the Worlds*
- Charles Dickens (various short stories)
- Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*



- **Read the same book** as your parent/carer (using the list above for suggestions) and discuss your thoughts about characters, the way the book is written, the plot and the ending etc.
- **Rewrite the novel into a one-page story** for a child; breakdown some of the more complex ideas to show your understanding of the book and how your audience.



- **Create and draw a postcard** from a location of your choice (home or abroad) and write it to a friend and then write one to the prime minister. Think about how your language/vocabulary choices change for the different audiences.

Year 9 moving into Year 10

• **Choose and read a book with your friends**, then make a short film together which summarises the story.

• **Create a survey** and ask 5-10 people their opinions on **power** and **conflict**. The survey can be as simple as 'can you define the meaning of power and conflict' to more in-depth questions to cover ideas such, 'what various ways are power and conflict reflected in the world today', 'why is society conflicted' etc. You will need to think first what questions you will ask about 'power' and 'conflict'.



• **Research**: Go online or to the library and find out what Britain was like in the 19th century (how poor people lived, how rich people lived, explore how children were educated in the 19th century etc.). This will help you understand the background to some of the texts we read in Years 10/11.

• **Read some poetry** by famous poets (for example, 'There is Another Sky' by Emily Dickinson, 'She Walks in Beauty' by Lord Byron) and try learning one off by heart. There are a number of poetry websites such as The Poetry Society, which publish copies of poems and which you can read and select one to learn.

• **Read a 'quality' newspaper** (such as The Guardian and/or The Independent – both of which are available free online), and then read other newspapers (e.g. 'The Daily Mail; The Mirror, The Sun) so you can compare how different newspapers deliver the same topics.

• **Buy a notebook** that you will then use to record new words (and remember to write out the definition) you encounter through your reading and through watching TV programmes, films, the news etc.

• Suggested **reading** list if you are stuck for books to read in the summer:

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| ➤ Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games | ➤ Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte |
| ➤ Sarah Crossan, Apple and Rain | ➤ Rebecca, Daphne Du Maurier |
| ➤ Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time | ➤ I Capture the Castle, Dodie Smith |
| ➤ Andy Mulligan, Trash | ➤ Fever Pitch, Nick Hornby |
| ➤ Patrick Ness, The Rest of Us Just Live Here | ➤ The Invisible Man, H.G. Wells |
| ➤ Meg Rosoff, Just in Case | ➤ My Family and Other Animals, Gerald Durrell |
| ➤ Fahrenheit 451, Ray Bradbury | |

• **Read the same book** as your parent/carer (using the list above for suggestions) and discuss your thoughts about characters, the way the book is written, the plot and the ending etc.