At Grace, we hope all of our students will become life-long readers. To help our students develop this habit and desire, we expect them to do some reading over each summer vacation. These are books that students may read alone, aloud as a family, or listen to from a recording. The point is to read and, hopefully, enjoy. Before entering 7th grade, each student must read TWO books that he/she has never heard, read, or tested over previously.

1. **Texas Historical Fiction: Old Yeller (Or Selection From List on Next Page)**
   a) Read *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson. [5.0 Reading Level, 196 pages] Copies of this book can be checked-out for the summer from Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Evans, or Mrs. Sepulva. *If you have already read this book, you must read a book from the list on the next page.*
   b) If you have read *Old Yeller* before, read one book from the list on the next page. *Make certain the book you choose is one that you have NOT READ or TESTED OVER previously.*
   c) Take the AR test over this book during the first week of school.

2. **Book of Choice: One Parent-Approved, 150+ page, “For Fun” Book that has an AR test**
   a) Select a parent-approved, 150+ page book.
   b) Go to www.arbookfind.com to see if the book you want to read has an AR “Reading Practice” test. Under “AR Quiz Types” look for the initials RP (Reading Practice). *Make certain the book you choose is one that you have NOT READ or TESTED OVER previously.* (Graphic novels, of any length, are not acceptable for this assignment.)
   c) Answer the 7 “follow-up” questions about your book (see page 3 of this handout).
   d) Make a visual aid according to the directions on page 3, and give a brief presentation to the class during the first week of school.
   e) Take the AR test over this book during the first week of school.

3. **Assessment of Summer Reading: First Test Grade of the School Year**
   Your first test grade for the first quarter of school will be the average of your scores on
   a) The objective test over Texas historical fiction novel that you read.
   b) The written answers you provide describing the “For Fun” book you chose to read.
   c) The visual tool you create to help you explain the “For Fun” book you chose to read.
   d) The brief presentation you make to the class promoting the “For Fun” book you chose to read.
   e) The AR test over the “For Fun” book you chose to read.

*Summer Reading Parent Signature Sheet (p. 4) must be completed, signed by a parent, & submitted to Mrs. Walker.

4. **Reading for Extra Credit: Optional Additional Learning Opportunities**
   Extra Credit work will only be credited to students who fully complete ALL parts of the required summer reading and assessment. Once the standard summer reading requirement are met:
   a) Read more 150+ page, parent-approved books this summer (These do not have to have AR tests).
   b) Have your parent sign the “Summer Reading Assignment: Parent Signature Sheet” identifying which books were read and verifying that each book was read completely.
   c) For every two extra books read, a student will be given one free “100%” quiz grade per quarter.
   d) By reading eight additional books, a student may earn a maximum of four free “100%” quiz grades. Only one free “100%” quiz grade will be awarded per quarter.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Students will NOT receive ANY kind of Summer Reading credit for reading *Holes*, by Louis Sachar, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien, or *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens as we will be studying these books together in class during the school year.
Additional Selections for Texas Historical Fiction Requirement:

[Make certain the book you choose is one that you have NOT READ or TESTED OVER previously.]

- Mrs. Walker recommends that students read *Old Yeller*, unless they have read it before, because this is a classic story and is easily available to all students.
- The books on this list are AR books that have been recommended to Grace Community School and Mrs. Walker, but Mrs. Walker is only familiar with a few of these. Although all claim to be appropriate for Junior High readers, Mrs. Walker cannot accurately vouch for the appropriateness of all words and topics within these stories or the availability and pricing of these books.
- Summaries and reviews of these books can be found on Amazon.com or Goodreads.com, etc.
- RL stands for Reading Level. The first number indicates the approximate school grade and the second number indicates the approximate month in that school grade.

**A Paradise Called Texas** by Janice Jordan Shefelman, 4.5 RL, 126 pages.

**Dark Water Rising** by Marian Hale, 5.9 RL, 240 pages.

**Letters to Oma:** A Young German Girl’s Account of Her First Year in Texas, 1847 by Marj Gurasich, 5.8 RL, 162 pages.

**The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate** by Jacqueline Kelly, 5.3 RL, 344 pages.

**The Great Storm:** The Hurricane Diary of J. T. King 4.9 RL, 160 pages.

**Remember the Alamo:** The Runaway Scrape Diary of Belle Wood, Austin’s Colony by Lisa Waller Rogers, 5.4 RL, 176 pages.

**Johnny Texas** by Carol Hoff, 5.3 RL, 160 pages

**Johnny Texas on the San Antonio Road** by Carol Hoff, 5.4 RL, 191 pages.

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to the Alamo**, by Melodie A. Cuate, 160 pages, 4.5 RL

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to San Jacinto**, by Melodie A. Cuate 192 pages, 4.6 RL

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to Gonzales**, by Melodie A. Cuate 174 pages, 4.1 RL

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to Goliad**, by Melodie A. Cuate 182 pages, 4.2 RL

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to La Salle’s Steelement**, by Melodie A. Cuate, 184 p., 4.3 RL

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to Plum Creed**, by Melodie A. Cuate, 188 pages, 4.6 RL

**Mr. Barrington’s Mysterious Trunk: Journey to Galveston**, by Melodie A. Cuate, 179 pages, 4.4 RL

**A Line in the Sand:** The Alamo Diary of Lucinda Lawrence, Gonzales, Texas, 1835 by Sherry Garland, 5.6 RL, 206 pages.

**Canyons** by Gary Paulsen, 5.0 RL, 192 pages

**Pictures, 1918** by Jeanette Ingold, 5.0 RL, 160 pages.

**Airfield**, by Jeanette Ingold, 5.2 RL, 160 pages.

**Dancing in Cadillac Light** by Kimberly Willis Holt, 5.1 RL, 176 pages.

**Survival in the Storm:** The Dust Bowl Diary of Grace Edwards [Dear America Series] by Katelan Janke, 6.4 RL, 190 pages.

**The Crimson Cap** by Ellen Howard, 5.1 RL, 177 pages

**The Goodbye Season** by Marian Hale, 5.3 RL, 288 pages.

**The Truth About Sparrows** by Marian Hale. 5.0 RL, 288 pages.
Follow-up Assignment for “For-Fun” Book: (Required)

Make certain the book you choose is one that you have NOT READ or TESTED OVER previously.

A. Answer the following questions in complete sentences on your own paper. Write your answers neatly in cursive or type them.

1. Describe your favorite character. What characteristics of the character made him/her your favorite? How did you relate with the character?
2. Describe any other significant characters. What personality characteristics were significant and why?
3. Describe the setting of the book. What made it interesting/not interesting?
4. What was the main conflict/problem in the book? How was the conflict resolved?
5. What did you like or dislike about the ending of the book? What was the resolution or tying-up of loose ends?
6. What was your favorite thing about the book? Least favorite?
7. What lessons did you learn from the book?

B. Create ONE of the following Visual Aids to use in a 2-minute oral presentation to the class:

1. Brown Bag Show & Tell: Place 6 items inside a bag that is big enough to completely conceal what is inside. Three items should represent characteristics of the main character. Three items should represent 3 main events in the story. Remove items from the bag one at a time as you describe, but do not reveal the name of the character or the book. Class guesses what book you are describing. At the end of your time you tell name of book, author, and main character.

2. Character Dress-Up/Movie Promo: Dress up like a main character from your book by creatively using items you already own or can borrow from a friend to form a “homemade” costume. The class will have 15 seconds to guess your character’s name or the title of your book from what they observe from your costume. If they do not guess correctly, you will identify your character and the author and title of your book. You will use the next 90 seconds to convince the class that this book would be an outstanding movie. You should provide information about why the setting, plot, and characters in this book will make an unbelievably good movie. Important Note: If a movie version of your book already exists, you must choose do Option 1 (Brown Bag Show & Tell) instead.
This summer my child, ____________________________, read the following books:

Texas Historical Fiction Book: __________________________________________

Book of Choice: ______________________________________________________

Extra Credit 1: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 2: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 3: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 4: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 5: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 6: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 7: _________________________________________________________

Extra Credit 8: _________________________________________________________

_________________________  __________________
Parent’s Signature                      Date