

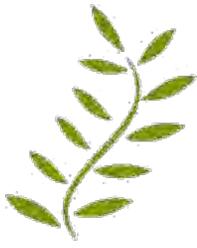
Willows Academy  
Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

# Summer Enrichment Requirements

Summer 2019



WILLOWS ACADEMY



# Willows Academy

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## Summer Enrichment Guidelines

The goal of the summer break is to give our minds, bodies and spirits a time to rest, relax, grow, and prepare for what comes next in our lives.

Summer is designed to be a break from the ordinary, to rest, and enjoy all that Chicago has to offer during the summer months. Willows believes that this rest is accomplished by a change of activity rather than an absence of activity.

In order to help the students use their time well and keep their minds sharp while they relax, Willows expects students to continue their studies over the summer by completing the summer enrichment expectations.

The **Summer Reading** is designed to be enjoyed throughout the summer months. Texts are chosen not just for their correlation to the curriculum, but also for their literary worth and enjoyment by the student. During the summer, students have the time to read slowly and to savor the texts they are reading, adding this literature to their intellectual fund of knowledge. Students are required to read the texts indicated, but very much encouraged to read from the recommended titles list. Students are also reminded that many libraries carry unabridged copies of these texts on audio books which, when read together with the text can greatly enhance the reading experience.

Learning through service to others is an integral component of a Willows education. We encourage our students to begin their **Service Hours** over the summer months. Students in grades 6-12 are required to serve five hours of service in each of the three following categories: care for the elderly, service to the community, and assistance to the impoverished, for a total of fifteen meaningful service hours each year. Service Hours are not due until May 1, 2020, but we advise to get a head start over the summer.

In addition to these required activities, we also encourage parents to closely monitor student use of technology and television during the summer months. One quick guide a parent can use is to balance reading and other wholesome activities with television/technology/cell phone time. For every hour your daughter spends on the computer, in front of the tv, or on her phone, has she spent an hour: reading, doing a craft, playing music, exercising, playing sports, engaged in a service activity, helping out at home? As you well know as parents, it's all about balance!

We hope you enjoy this summer enrichment program, and we look forward to seeing all our students taller, tanner, and intellectually sharp on August 21!

# What is a Lexile?

Next to each text on the reading list we identify the Lexile® of each text. A Lexile® provides one piece of information about a student's reading ability or about the difficulty of a text. A Lexile® allows us to predict how well a student may be able to comprehend a text; by matching a student Lexile® with a text Lexile® we increase the chances of students having a successful reading experience.

A Lexile® is based on a different principle than a "grade level equivalency." In the same way that you don't buy a shoe based on your daughter's age, you buy it based on the size of her foot, you don't identify a student's reading level based on her age, but on her actual reading "size." This reading "size" is her Lexile®.

Unlike reading fluency, the Lexile® measure focused on **comprehension**. It indicates identifies your daughter's ability to decipher the words of the text (fluency) and her ability to understand what she just read.

A Lexile® is a flexible measure that acknowledges other factors that influence comprehension. For example, when interest is very high, a child a child may enjoy and comprehend texts at the high end or above her Lexile®. When the text is guided, for example the novels your child will read throughout the years, students can comprehend at much higher Lexile® because the text is read more slowly and its complexity is analyzed and guided in class by a teacher. When content is new or not interesting and unguided (as is summer reading), a student may need to read at a lower Lexile® to comprehend the text.

In addition to Lexile®, however, we all know that reading is a skill: the more a child reads, the stronger her reading skills will become.

We also know that some texts are simple, but very deep due to their themes and, despite their Lexile®, should be read at an older age or several times. For example, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (L940) could easily be placed on the senior reading list because of its allegory.

When helping your daughter select a text to read, consider two factors: 1) her reading ability and 2) her interest in the topic. To help you do this, we have provided summaries of all the texts on the list. If your daughter is a lower reader, but very interested in the topic, she may be able to do well with a text with a higher Lexile®. If your daughter's interest in a text is very low, she may need a text with a lower Lexile® in order to get through it with comprehension.

From: [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com)

*All book descriptions in the Summer Reading lists below are taken from publisher's and seller's websites and book jackets.*

**Although each child is at her own place at her own time...like her shoe size...in general, a student tends to fall into the following Lexile® ranges:**

Grade	Lexile Range
1	Up to 300L
2	140L to 500L
3	330L to 700L
4	445L to 810L
5	565L to 910L
6	665L to 1000L
7	735L to 1065L
8	805L to 1100L
9	855L to 1165L
10	905L to 1195L
11 and 12	940L to 1210L

# Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

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## Math Review

Math review is designed to review the previous year's mathematics in order to start the next level of math fully prepared for success.

**Assignment:** Returning Willows Students with any Quarter or Semester Grade of 84% or below OR a Test Average of 76% or below in Math 6 are required to review their math skills using IXL. You will receive your assignments in class.

All new Willows 7th graders are recommended to review their math skills using IXL. Email Cathy Grenke, Math Department Head, at [grenke@willowsacademy.org](mailto:grenke@willowsacademy.org) to acquire account and assignment information.

## Summer Reading

**Assignment:** Read the texts marked "REQUIRED." The books listed under "SUGGESTED" books are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

**Assessment:** In-class writing prompt and activity during the first week of school.

### Required for all 8th Graders:

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#### **Shakespeare Stories (Book 1) by Leon Garfield (L750) - Must read five of ten stories**

By skillfully weaving his own prose with Shakespeare's language, Leon Garfield has refashioned twelve of the Elizabethan playwright's most memorable dramas into stories, capturing all the richness of the characters, plot, mood, and setting. This format will delight both those who know the great dramatist's works and those who are new to them. Michael Foreman's dramatic color illustrations and varied black-and-white line drawings are the perfect complement to this celebration of Shakespeare's genius.

#### **Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (L750)**

The four March sisters--Meg, Amy, Beth, and feisty Jo--share the joys and sorrows of growing up while their father is away at war. The family is poor in worldly goods, but rich in love and character.

### Suggested Titles for Enrichment:

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#### **Anne of Green Gables or Anne of Avonlea by L.M. Montgomery (L990)**

As soon as Anne Shirley arrived at the snug, white farmhouse called Green Gables, she knew she wanted to stay forever... but would the Cuthberts send her back to the orphanage? Anne knows she's not what they expected -- a skinny girl with decidedly red hair and a temper to match. If only she could convince them to let her stay, she'd try very hard not to keep rushing headlong into scrapes or blurt out the very first thing she had to say. Anne was not like anybody else, everyone at Green Gables agreed; she was special -- a girl with an enormous imagination. This orphan girl dreamed of the day when she could call herself Anne of Green Gables.

## **D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (L1070)**

Presented here are the gods, goddesses, and legendary figures of ancient Greece, from Midas to Zeus. "In a relaxed and humorous tone, these splendid artists bring to life the myths that have inspired great European literature and art through the ages.

## **Small Acts of Amazing Courage by Gloria Whelan (L940)**

Here is an extraordinary little book that draws you to its warm-hearted characters and introduces you to a part of history that called for great changes, which were achieved through 'small acts of amazing courage.' It is a delight and an eye-opener at the same time. It settles you with a colonial family living in India in 1919, immediately after World War I, at the time when Gandhi was beginning his peaceful demonstrations to free Indians from British rule. Rosalind is the fifteen-year-old daughter of a British Army General and his wife who have been stationed in India her whole life. Rosalind loves the people, the colour and the excitement of her adoptive country, and though her father would have her properly educated in British ways she can't help but absorb India's vibrancy. The young Lieutenant Max Nelson was studying at Cambridge when he joined the war and served under Rosalind's father. Max's parents live in India: his father runs a jute plantation and his mother is described as 'unconventional' for running an orphanage for abandoned Indian children. Max and Rosalind meet one day at 'The Club,' and he immediately draws Rosalind's interest by talking to her about Gandhi and his dream of freeing India from England's rule.

## **King of Shadows by Susan Cooper (L1010)**

Only in the world of the theater can Nat Field find an escape from the tragedies that have shadowed his young life. So he is thrilled when he is chosen to join an American drama troupe traveling to London to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in a new replica of the famous Globe theater. Shortly after arriving in England, Nat goes to bed ill and awakens transported back in time four hundred years -- to another London, and another production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Amid the bustle and excitement of an Elizabethan theatrical production, Nat finds the warm, nurturing father figure missing from his life -- in none other than William Shakespeare himself. Does Nat have to remain trapped in the past forever, or give up the friendship he's so longed for in his own time?

## **The Silver Chair by C.S. Lewis (L840)**

Through dangers untold and caverns deep and dark, a noble band of friends is sent to rescue a prince held captive. But their mission to Underland brings them face-to-face with an evil more beautiful and more deadly than they ever expected.

*The Silver Chair* is the sixth book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series. For over sixty years, it has been drawing readers of all ages into a magical land where giants wreak havoc and enchantment rules.