

2021 Summer Reading for Rising Fourth and Fifth Graders

Students entering the fourth and fifth grades will read the novel, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, by Norton Juster. Students will receive copies on the last day of school, read the novel during the summer, and should bring the book to school in September, as it will constitute the first unit of the year in Language Arts/English class. The rich themes of imagination, insight, education, and wisdom will be a segue for future explorations of observing the world around us, encouraging curiosity, asking thoughtful questions, and appreciating the perspectives of others. After reading the book, students are asked to complete a writing assignment of a minimum of two paragraphs in length.

Background

In the novel, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, the main character, Milo finds everything to be completely uninteresting and has a special dislike for his schoolwork-as he thinks it is useless! Then one day, he comes home to find a special gift that has been left in his room with an anonymous note attached to it. Soon afterwards, Milo embarks on a journey that will change his life forever.

Guidelines:

Please type your response and double-space your lines. Make sure your name is included at the top and please be sure to bring your completed work to your teacher, on the first day of class. This will be a graded assignment.

Prompt: (please read carefully, as it has multiple questions!) How would you describe Milo at the very beginning of the story, before his quest starts? Compare that with how you think his journey changed him-please use some specific details from the story. Finally, would you rather be friends with the Milo from chapter 1 or the Milo from chapter 20 and why?