Dear Parents and Students,

Want to take an adventure this summer? Read a book! On this adventure you will meet new and interesting characters and travel to exciting places! When you come back to school, we will talk about each of these books and do some fun activities.

Once you have read the story entirely answer the questions below. Answers should be written down in a composition book. Also, list and define unfamiliar or new vocabulary words on the Vocabulary Log provided below. Then write a sentence using the vocabulary word. Assigned summer reading and questions are due the first week of school.

Happy Summer Reading!!!

Entering Third Grade
Because of Winn-Dixie (Kate DiCamillo)
Questions for *Because of Winn-Dixie*:

1. What brings India Opal and her father to Naomi?

2. Describe Winn-Dixie. What is it about him that makes him appealing to India Opal?

3. How does India Opal’s father react to Winn-Dixie?

4. How does India Opal convince her father to let the dog stay?

5. What are ten things about India Opal’s mother that her father tells her? Connect these ten things to the rest of the story. (For example, #3 She liked to plant things—India Opal plants a three with Gloria Dump)

6. Gloria Dump says that the most important thing in life is “different for everyone… You find out on your own. But in the meantime, you got to remember, you can’t always judge people by the things they done. You got to judge them by what they are doing now” (Page 96). What do you think this means? What does this mean to you?

7. Why is Gloria Dump so important to India Opal?

8. Who were some of your favorite characters in town? Describe them.

9. How does a Litmus Lozenge work? Would you want to try one? Why or why not?

10. What happens at the party to bring India Opal and her father together? What do you predict for their relationships in the future?

11. What does the title mean to you?

12. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?

*Questions should be answered in two to four complete sentences.*

**Entering Fourth Grade**

_The Mouse and the Motorcycle (Beverly Cleary)_

Questions for *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*

1. What happened in Chapter 2?

2. What was the problem in the story?
3. How would you describe Ralph as a character?

4. Describe parts of the story that you could visualize as you read.

5. If you were Ralph, how would you handle the situation?

6. If you were Keith, would you have told your parents about the mouse?

7. Now that Ralph has ventured outside room 215, how does he feel?

8. What goal does Ralph have in relation to the hotel?

9. Why is Ralph afraid of vacuum cleaners?

10. What choice did Ralph make that cost him the motorcycle? How do you think Keith will respond to this news?

11. What made Ralph feel even worse about the motorcycle being lost?

12. What kind of a person is Keith? What kind of a mouse is Ralph?

13. How do you think Ralph is feeling when he is trapped and placed outside?

14. How did the story end? If you could change the ending, how would you change it?

*Questions should be answered in three to five sentences.*

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**Entering Fifth Grade**

*Island of the Blue Dolphins (Scott O’Dell)*

Questions for *Island of the Blue Dolphins*:

1. Do you think that Karana is a responsible person? What about Ramo? How much do you think their ages affect whether or not they are responsible?

2. How would you describe the relationship between the islanders and the Aleuts as the story begins?

3. What do the islanders do that contributes to bad feelings between them and the Aleuts?
4. Why might Karana’s people need to know exactly when the hunters will leave?

5. If Chief Chowig had not argued with the hunters about payment, what do you think would have happened that day?

6. What might have happened the next time the hunters came to the island?

7. Why do you think Kimki decides that the tribe should leave the island?

8. Why do you think Nanko teases the islanders instead of telling them the good news right away?

9. How might you feel if you had to move away from your home? Is there one special thing you would never leave behind, as Ramo will not leave his spear?

10. After Ramo dies, Karana vows to kill all of the wild dogs on the island. Does this seem fair to you?

11. Why do you think Karana burns down the village of Ghalas-at? Would you have made the same decision? Why or why not?

12. Karana decides to disobey the law that forbids women from making weapons. Can you think of a situation in which you might have to disobey a law to save your life?

13. Why does Karana decide she must kill the leader of the dog pack? What changes her mind?

14. Why do you think the leader of the dog pack begins to trust her, rather than wants to harm her?

15. What does it mean that Karana eventually gives the otter a name, Mon-a-nee?

16. As time passes, Karana’s feelings about killing animals change. How did she once feel, and how does she feel now? Why do you think her feelings change?
17. The author almost never uses words that describe how Karana is feeling. We can often guess, though, by how he describes what Karana is doing. From his descriptions, what do you think Karana is feeling when she first sees the ship?

18. When she realizes that she doesn’t know whose ship it is? When she hears the man calling her? When she realizes that the ship has left without her?

*Questions should be answered in five to seven complete sentences.*

### Entering Sixth Grade

*Number the Stars (Lois Lowry)*

Questions for *Number the Stars:*

1. What are some changes in Annemarie’s home and city caused by the war? Which change would bother you the most if it happened here?

2. Did you see an example of thoughtfulness or consideration for others in this story?

3. Did you see examples of honesty or dishonesty? How did you feel when you read about them?

4. Why did Lois Lowry choose Number the Stars for the story’s title?

5. What was one of the most suspenseful parts of the story? What did you like or dislike about it?

6. What did you think about the soldier who touched Kirsti’s hair and said she reminded him of his own daughter?
7. What did you think of the soldier who tore Lise’s baby picture, threw it on the floor, and ground his book heel into it?

8. Did you read any examples of quick thinking?

9. Who has the harder time: Mama who was slapped by a Nazi and broke her ankle or Papa who waits, worries, and follows his normal routine of buying the newspaper and going to office?

10. Annemarie tells her uncle that she wasn’t brave because she was frightened while she was delivering the basket with the hidden package. Do you agree with her?

11. What did Uncle Henrik mean when he said, “It is much easier to be brave if you do not know everything?”

12. Why did Mrs. Rosen tell the girls not to give the soldiers any reason to remember them?

13. Did any part of the story make you angry? Why?

14. When the soldier spoke to Kirsti and touched her hair she pushed his hand away and said “Don’t.” What were you like as a 5-year old? How would you have acted with this soldier?

15. Did any part of the story make you sad? Why?

16. On page 123, Uncle Henrik says that being brave means not thinking about the dangers, just thinking about what you have to do. Let’s think about courage. What are some examples of courage you see in the story?

17. What does Ellen’s necklace represent? Why is it important?

18. Do you think Annemarie will see Ellen again? Why or why not?

19. What kind of friendship do Annemarie and Ellen have?

*Questions should be answered in five to seven complete sentences.*
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<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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Vocabulary Log
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<tr>
<th>Example:</th>
<th>of great significance or value; likely to have a profound effect on success, survival, or well-being.</th>
<th>Reading is an <strong>important</strong> part of learning.</th>
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