

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Middle School Summer Homework

ELA with Mrs. Haake









Summer 2026








Summer of the Monkeys — 8th Grade Summer Reading Choice Board

Directions:

Choose **any 2 activities** to complete after reading *Summer of the Monkeys* by Wilson Rawls.

Each activity should show thoughtful effort, creativity, and understanding of the novel's themes, characters, and setting.

Choice	Activity
 Character Collage	Create a collage for Jay Berry, Daisy, or another character using images, words, and symbols that represent their personality, challenges, and growth throughout the novel.
 Diary Entries	Write 3 diary entries from Jay Berry's point of view during important moments in the story. Include thoughts, emotions, and reactions to events.
 Movie Trailer	Create a short movie trailer or storyboard for the novel. Include important scenes, dramatic narration, and music suggestions.
 Theme Analysis	Write a paragraph explaining one major theme of the novel such as family, determination, growing up, sacrifice, or compassion. Use at least 3 examples from the text.
 Setting Map	Draw and label a map of important locations from the Ozark Mountains setting. Include descriptions and events that happened in each place.
 Interview a Character	Write an interview with Jay Berry or Daisy. Include at least 10 thoughtful questions and answers based on the story.
 Monkey Business Poster	Design a "Wanted" poster or advertisement for the escaped monkeys. Include rewards, descriptions, and humorous details from the novel.
 Favorite Quote Reflection	Choose 3 meaningful quotes from the book and explain why each quote is important to the story or a character's development.

Choice	Activity
 Alternate Ending	Rewrite the ending of the novel. What would happen if Jay Berry made a different decision? Write at least 2 well-developed paragraphs.
 Soundtrack Playlist	Create a playlist of 5–8 songs that match the mood, themes, or characters of the novel. Explain why each song fits.
 Symbolism Hunt	Identify and explain 3 symbols in the novel and what they represent.
 Newspaper Front Page	Create a newspaper front page covering the monkey hunt. Include headlines, articles, interviews, and illustrations.
 Social Media Profile	Create a fictional social media page for a character. Include posts, captions, hashtags, and comments that connect to events in the novel.
 Decision Debate	Was Jay Berry right to give up his reward money? Write an argumentative paragraph defending your opinion with evidence from the text.
 Life Lessons Reflection	Explain 3 important lessons readers can learn from the novel and how those lessons apply to real life.

Optional Challenge Activities

- Compare *Summer of the Monkeys* to another coming-of-age novel.
- Research life in the Ozark Mountains during the time period of the novel.
- Create a comic strip showing one major scene from the story.

Grading Expectations

Your work should demonstrate:

- Understanding of the novel
- Creativity and effort
- Clear writing and organization
- Use of details and evidence from the text
- Proper grammar and neat presentation
- A formative grade will be given on each assignment.