

### Summer Reading Assignment: Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Part One: Read each passage and annotate using the blank lines provided. The annotations should be a 1 sentence summary of what you read in that portion of the text. Then, answer the reading comprehension questions below.**

#### Passage 1: From "A Wrinkle In Time"

Excerpt from Chapter 7: The Man with Red Eyes

- 1 "Once ten is ten. Once eleven is eleven. Once twelve is twelve."
- 2 The number words pounded insistently against Meg's brain. They seemed to be boring their way into her skull.
- 3 "Twice one is two. Twice two is four. Twice three is six."

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- 4 Calvin's voice came out in an angry shout. "Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
- 5 "Twice four is eight. Twice five is ten. Twice six is twelve."
- 6 "Father!" Meg screamed. "Father!" The scream, half involuntary, jerked her mind back out of darkness.
- 7 The words of the multiplication table seemed to break up into laughter. "Splendid! Splendid! You have passed your preliminary tests with flying colors."

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- 8 "You didn't think we were as easy as all that, falling for that old stuff, did you?" Charles Wallace demanded.
- 9 "Ah, I hoped not. I most sincerely hoped not. But after all you are very young and very impressionable, and the younger the better, my little man. The younger the better."
- 10 Meg looked up at the fiery eyes, at the light pulsing above them, and then away. She tried looking at the mouth, at the thin, almost colorless lips, and this was more possible, even though she had to look obliquely, so that she was not sure exactly what the face really looked like, whether it was young or old, cruel or kind, human or alien.
- 11 "If you please," she said, trying to sound calm and brave. "The only reason we are here is because we think our father is here. Can you tell us where to find him?"
- 12 "Ah, your father!" There seemed to be a great chortling of delight. "Ah, yes, your father! It is not can I, you know, young lady, but will I?"
- 13 "Will you, then?"
- 14 "That depends on a number of things. Why do you want your father?"

- 15 "Didn't you ever have a father yourself?" Meg demanded. "You don't want him for a reason. You want him because he's your father."
- 16 "Ah, but he hasn't been acting very like a father, lately, has he? Abandoning his wife and his four little children to go gallivanting off on wild adventures of his own."
- 17 "He was working for the government. He'd never have left us otherwise. And we want to see him, please. Right now."
- 18 "My, but the little miss is impatient! Patience, patience, young lady."
- 19 Meg did not tell the man on the chair that patience was not one of her virtues.
- 20 "And by the way, my children," he continued blandly, "you don't need to vocalize verbally with me, you know. I can understand you quite as well as you can understand me."
- 21 Charles Wallace put his hands on his hips defiantly. "The spoken word is one of the triumphs of man," he proclaimed, "and I intend to continue using it, particularly with people I don't trust." But his voice was shaking. Charles Wallace, who even as an infant had seldom cried, was near tears.
- 22 "And you don't trust me?"
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- 23 "What reason have you given us to trust you?"
- 24 "What cause have I given you for distrust?" The thin lips curled slightly.
- 25 Suddenly Charles Wallace darted forward and hit the man as hard as he could, which was fairly hard, as he had had a good deal of coaching from the twins.
- 26 "Charles!" Meg screamed.
- 27 The men in dark smocks moved smoothly but with swiftness to Charles. The man in the chair casually raised one finger, and the men dropped back.
- 28 "Hold it—" Calvin whispered, and together he and Meg darted forward and grabbed Charles Wallace, pulling him back from the platform.
- 29 The man gave a wince and the thought of his voice was a little breathless, as though Charles Wallace's punch had succeeded in wounding him. "May I ask why you did that?"
- 30 "Because you aren't you," Charles Wallace said. "I'm not sure what you are, but you"—he pointed to the man on the chair—"aren't what's talking to us. I'm sorry if I hurt you. I didn't think you were real. I thought perhaps you were a robot, because I don't feel anything coming directly from you. I'm not sure where it's coming from, but it's coming through you. It isn't you."
- 31 "Pretty smart, aren't you?" the thought asked, and Meg had an uncomfortable feeling that she detected a snarl.
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- 32 "It's not that I'm smart," Charles Wallace said, and again Meg could feel the palm of his hand sweating inside hers.
- 33 "Try to find out who I am, then," the thought probed.
- 34 "I have been trying," Charles Wallace said, his voice high and troubled.

- 35 "Look into my eyes. Look deep within them and I will tell you."
- 36 Charles Wallace looked quickly at Meg and Calvin, then said, as though to himself, "I have to," and focused his clear blue eyes on the red ones of the man in the chair. Meg looked not at the man but at her brother. After a moment it seemed that his eyes were no longer focusing. The pupils grew smaller and smaller, as though he were looking into an intensely bright light, until they seemed to close entirely, until his eyes were nothing but an opaque blue. He slipped his hands out of Meg's and Calvin's and started walking slowly toward the man on the chair.
- 37 "No!" Meg screamed. "No!"
- 38 But Charles Wallace continued his slow walk forward, and she knew that he had not heard her.
- 39 "No!" she screamed again, and ran after him. With her inefficient flying tackle she landed on him. She was so much larger than he that he fell sprawling, hitting his head a sharp crack against the marble floor. She knelt by him, sobbing. After a moment of lying there as though he had been knocked out by the blow, he opened his eyes, shook his head, and sat up. Slowly the pupils of his eyes dilated until they were back to normal, and the blood came back to his white cheeks.
- 40 The man on the chair spoke directly into Meg's mind, and now there was a distinct menace to the words. "I am not pleased," he said to her. "I could very easily lose patience with you, and that, for your information, young lady, would not be good for your father. If you have the slightest desire to see your father again, you had better cooperate."
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### Reading Comprehension Questions: "A Wrinkle In Time"

1. The speaker of the following line (paragraph 1) is most likely:

"Once ten is ten. Once eleven is eleven. Once twelve is twelve."

- a. the Man with Red Eyes
- b. Meg
- c. Charles Wallace
- d. Calvin

2. What is most closely the meaning of obliquely as it is used in the following passage of the text (paragraph 10)?

She tried looking at the mouth, at the thin, almost colorless lips, and this was more possible, even though she had to look obliquely, so that she was not sure exactly what the face really looked like, whether it was young or old, cruel or kind, human or alien.

- a. straight-ahead
- b. with suspicion
- c. at an angle
- d. heroically

3. What do the following lines from the text mainly reveal about the Man with Red Eyes (paragraph 20)?

"And by the way, my children," he continued blandly, "you don't need to vocalize verbally with me, you know. I can understand you quite as well as you can understand me."

- a. He is trying to make them feel more comfortable.
- b. He does not speak their language.

- c. He can read their minds.
- d. He would like to have a conversation with them.

4. Which of the following words best describes how the Man with Red Eyes is feeling toward Meg at the end of the text?

- a. delighted
- b. threatened
- c. terrified
- d. flattered

5. What do the following lines mainly reveal about Charles Wallace (paragraph 36)?

Charles Wallace looked quickly at Meg and Calvin, then said, as though to himself, "I have to," and focused his clear blue eyes on the red ones of the man in the chair. Meg looked not at the man but at her brother. After a moment it seemed that his eyes were no longer focusing. The pupils grew smaller and smaller, as though he were looking into an intensely bright light, until they seemed to close entirely, until his eyes were nothing but an opaque blue.

- a. Charles Wallace is brave and devoted.
- b. Charles Wallace doesn't take danger seriously.
- c. Charles Wallace values Meg and Calvin more than himself.
- d. Charles Wallace has a death wish.

6. Which of the following phrases best supports the answer to Question 5?

- a. "...focused his clear blue eyes on the red ones of the man in the chair. Meg looked not at the man but at her brother."
- b. "Meg looked not at the man but at her brother."
- c. "Charles Wallace looked quickly at Meg and Calvin, then said, as though to himself, 'I have to,'..."
- d. "The pupils grew smaller and smaller, as though he were looking into an intensely bright light, until they seemed to close entirely, until his eyes were nothing but an opaque blue."

7. Which of these inferences about the Man with Red Eyes is best supported by the text?

- a. He is trying to protect the children against what he sees as a neglectful father.
- b. He is most impressed with Charles Wallace.
- c. He could not have captured the children's father because he can only control the young.
- d. He is challenging the children to see what they are capable of.

8. Which sentence from the text most strongly supports the answer to Question 7?

- a. "The man gave a wince and the thought of his voice was a little breathless, as though Charles Wallace's punch had succeeded in winding him."
- b. "You have passed your preliminary tests with flying colors."
- c. "Ah, yes, your father! It is not *can* I, you know, young lady, but *will* I?"
- d. "The number words pounded insistently against Meg's brain."

9. Match each line of dialogue with its character: Calvin, Charles, Meg, and Red-Eyed Man.

Dialogue	Character
"Didn't you ever have a father yourself?"	
"What reason have you given us to trust you?"	
"But after all you are very young and very impressionable, and the younger the better, my little man."	
"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."	

10. Match each description with the character it best describes: Charles, Meg, and Red-Eyed Man.

Description	Character
ominious	
heroic	
stubborn	

**Passage 2: “We’re on the Same Team”**

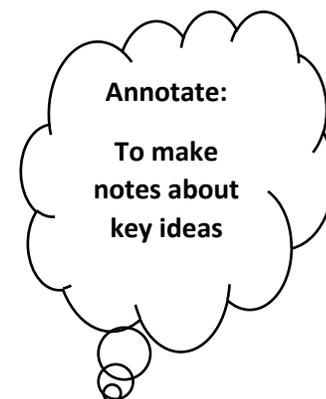
A letter written by Jacki Jing, a former NCAA Division I volleyball player, in response to an article written by Sports News.

Jacki Jing  
562 Maple St.  
Dallas, TX 75215

March 21, 2018

SportsNews  
854 Commerce St.  
New York, NY 10103

Dear Editor,



- 1 I was pretty excited recently when I saw a SportsNews article titled, “Why Volleyball Is So Popular.” As a former NCAA Division I volleyball player, I was excited to see my favorite sport featured on your website. My excitement quickly turned to disbelief as I read your article.
- 2 In particular, I was insulted when I read the following passage:

*Athletes go where they find success. Basketball is a difficult sport to master. Unless you’re willing to put in the time and effort and have a certain level of athleticism and hand-eye skills, you will not be successful. You will be pushed out of the sport because of what it demands. In volleyball, those barriers are lower.*

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- 3 Basketball is an incredible sport. It requires talent and athletic ability. Yet the exact same is true of volleyball.
- 4 Just like basketball, it takes years to hone volleyball skills. Volleyball requires long practices in the gym (or in the sand) multiple times a week. Approaching, hitting, serving, passing—these aspects of volleyball may not look hard. However, playing at a high level requires an athlete to master a very specific **technique** for each skill. In this regard, volleyball is no different than basketball. Anyone can pick up a ball and shoot it at the basket. But it takes a lifetime of practice to be as good as the best NBA and WNBA players. The ladies on the Olympic volleyball teams might make it look easy. That’s because years of practice have **refined** their movements so they appear fluid and graceful.

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- 5 I remember being a gangly, awkward teen. I had to choose between volleyball and basketball. Every person chooses his or her own path for different reasons. I don’t think one sport is better or harder than the other. Personally, I chose volleyball because it **required** work. I had to learn how to control my body. I had to learn how

to do more than just jump high. I had to learn how to swing hard and sharp. I had to think fast, move quickly, and use strategy. I had to bleed and I had to sweat just as hard as any other **elite** athlete.

- 6 I am tired of hearing that volleyball is easy. I resent that this article **implies** volleyball players have somehow chosen an “easier” path. More young women are choosing to play volleyball because it is tough. It is competitive. It is fierce and fun. That’s it.
- 7 As for the young women out there who are thinking about volleyball, I can tell you right now it is my life and my passion. I was not able to become an Olympian. Yet at 30 years old I still play as much as I can. And believe me, I still have not mastered it. I am always refining my skills and my knowledge of the game.
- 8 Volleyball changed my life. When I think about playing in high school and college, it brings back memories that make me tear up. My teammates are my sisters. I am still friends with some of my biggest rivals from college. The relationships you form when working that hard at something stay with you forever.
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- 9 I still hold close to my heart some of my biggest wins and hardest losses. I’ve learned what is necessary to perform under pressure. I’ve learned how to push myself mentally and physically. I’ve learned how to work with a large group of people. I’ve learned what it takes to achieve what I want. I have experienced the highest highs of my life on the volleyball court.
- 10 SportsNews, volleyball is not girly. It is not any less athletic. It is just awesome.

Sincerely,  
Jacki Jing

### Reading Comprehension Questions: Story 2

1. The following passage (paragraph 7) is told in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense, from a \_\_\_\_\_ point of view.

I am tired of hearing that volleyball is easy. I resent that this article implies volleyball players have somehow chosen an “easier” path. More young women are choosing to play volleyball because it is tough. It is competitive. It is fierce and fun. That’s it.

- a. present; first-person
- b. present; third-person
- c. past; first-person
- d. past; third-person

2. With which sentence of the SportsNews article (paragraph 3) does the author of the letter **most strongly disagree**?

*Athletes go where they find success. Basketball is a difficult sport to master. Unless you’re willing to put in the time and effort and have a certain level of athleticism and hand-eye skills, you will not be successful. You will be pushed out of the sport because of what it demands. In volleyball, those barriers are lower.*

- a. “Basketball is a difficult sport to master.”
- b. “Unless you’re willing to put in the time and effort and have a certain level of athleticism and hand-eye skills, you will not be successful.”
- c. “You will be pushed out of the sport because of what it demands.”
- d. “In volleyball, those barriers are lower.”

3. Which of the following selections best states the central message of the author’s letter?

- a. Athletes who are unsure about which sport to play should choose volleyball.
- b. Volleyball is as difficult and important as basketball.

- c. Sports are easy for people at professional levels.
- d. Not all sports can be both competitive and fun.

**4. Which passage from the letter best supports the answer to Question 3?**

- a. “The relationships you form when working that hard at something stay with you forever.”
- b. “Personally, I chose volleyball because it required work.”
- c. “I resent that this article implies volleyball players have somehow chosen an ‘easier’ path.”
- d. “I am always refining my skills and my knowledge of the game.”

**5. Use the context clues to match the following vocabulary words to their definition: elite (paragraph 5), implies (paragraph 6), refined (paragraph 4), required (paragraph 5), and technique (paragraph 4).**

Definition	Vocabulary Word
A person or group of people with high ability or qualities	
Improved by making small changes	
To strongly suggest something without saying it directly	
Necessary for a purpose	
A way of accomplishing something, as skill	

**6. What is the main problem that the author of the letter has with the SportsNews article? Cite evidence from the selection to support your answer.**

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**7. Why did the author choose to play volleyball? Cite evidence from the text to explain the author’s reasoning.**

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**8. According to the author, why do young women choose to play volleyball? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.**

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**Part Two: Read through each part of speech. Then, choose the correct part of speech for the word in bold.**

● **Noun** – A person, place, thing, or idea  
Examples: *teacher, school, pencil, happiness*

● **Verb** – An action or state of being  
Examples: *run, jump, is, are*

● **Adjective** – A word that describes a noun  
Examples: *tall, green, noisy, kind*

● **Adverb** – A word that describes a verb, adjective, or another adverb; usually answers how, when, where, or to what extent  
Examples: *quickly, yesterday, very, always*

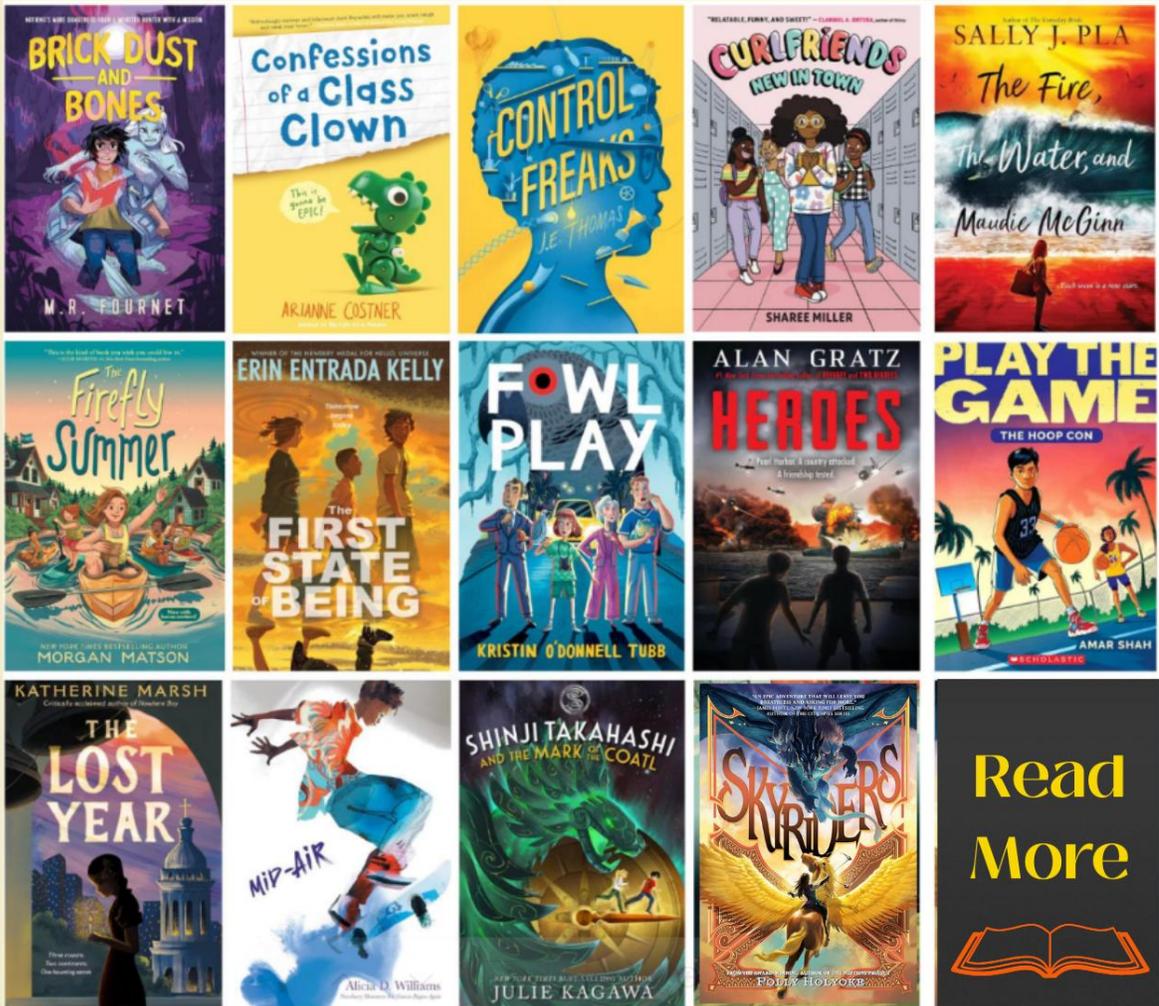
- The **dog** barked loudly at the stranger.  
a) verb    b) noun    c) adjective    d) adverb
- We **walked** to the park after lunch.  
a) noun    b) adverb    c) verb    d) adjective
- The **small** kitten curled up in the warm blanket.  
a) adverb    b) noun    c) adjective    d) verb
- She sang **beautifully** at the talent show.  
a) verb    b) adjective    c) noun    d) adverb
- Music** filled the entire house.  
a) verb    b) noun    c) adjective    d) adverb
- They **danced** all night at the party.  
a) noun    b) verb    c) adjective    d) adverb
- The **old** book was covered in dust.  
a) noun    b) verb    c) adjective    d) adverb
- He ran **very** quickly down the hallway.  
a) noun    b) verb    c) adverb    d) adjective
- That cake looks **delicious!**  
a) verb    b) noun    c) adverb    d) adjective
- The students **read** silently during independent time.  
a) noun    b) adjective    c) verb    d) adverb

- The **balloon** floated into the sky.  
a) adjective    b) verb    c) noun    d) adverb
- The cat jumped **gracefully** onto the counter.  
a) noun    b) adverb    c) verb    d) adjective
- She **studies** every evening before dinner.  
a) verb    b) adverb    c) noun    d) adjective
- The **noisy** classroom made it hard to focus.  
a) verb    b) noun    c) adverb    d) adjective
- Friendship** is important to everyone.  
a) adjective    b) noun    c) adverb    d) verb
- We will leave **soon** for the beach.  
a) adjective    b) verb    c) adverb    d) noun
- He **smiled** at the joke.  
a) noun    b) adjective    c) adverb    d) verb
- It was a **gloomy**, rainy day.  
a) verb    b) adverb    c) adjective    d) noun
- My **sister** loves to draw and paint.  
a) verb    b) noun    c) adjective    d) adverb
- They **always** eat dinner together as a family.  
a) verb    b) adjective    c) adverb    d) noun

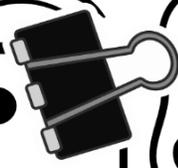


SSYRA 2025-2026

# Reading Challenge



Under the "Media-Deerlake" in Canvas, you will find quizzes on all 14 books. Your score must be a 4 out of 5 on the quiz for each book you read in order for it to count. Deadline is February 27th to attend the ice cream party!



# BOOK REVIEW

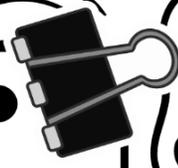
Your

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is the main character(or subject if nonfiction)?
2. What is the setting?
3. What's main idea?
4. What is the conflict?
5. How was it resolved?



# BOOK REVIEW

Your

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Book

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Who is the main character(or subject if nonfiction)?
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