

# Lighthouse Christian Academy Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

This summer, you will need to read two books: *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame, and one other book of your choice from the list given.

In addition, **you will need to become proficient keyboarders**, because most of the writing assignments you will hand in will need to be typed. Attached is login information about the online typing tutorial that I would like you to use, Typing.com. **Students need to complete the Beginner and Advance sessions by the time the school year begins.** Each lesson takes about 5-10 minutes to complete, and there are 25 total in the Beginning/Advance sessions. The lessons are fun and rewarding, and I can keep track of the students' progress remotely. Please see the attached letter with more information and the students' login information so they can get started!

Please see the requirements for the reading assignments on the following pages. Don't hesitate to contact me regarding any questions you may have.

**Enjoy your summer reading, and please bring your *Wind in the Willows* book with you when you return in the fall! Have a wonderfully adventurous summer, and may God grant you rest and rejuvenation.**

In His grace,

*Mrs. Kathy Guerra*  
k.guerra@lccademy.org

# ***The Wind in the Willows***

by Kenneth Grahame

When we return to school in September, we will discuss *The Wind in the Willows* and students will be assessed based on their knowledge of the book. Please answer the following questions in the space provided as you read the novel.

1. Write a thorough description of each character or place that you encounter in the book.

A. Mole: \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Toad: \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Rat: \_\_\_\_\_

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D. weasels: \_\_\_\_\_

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E. the riverbank: \_\_\_\_\_

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F. Wild Wood: \_\_\_\_\_

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G. Badger: \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Compare and contrast the countryside in the summer versus the countryside in the winter. Which do you prefer? Why?**

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## Book Summary

The second book that you read this summer can be any from the following list. When selecting the book, make sure to read the back cover of the book to see if it is something that may be of interest to you. It sometimes takes a chapter or two to get into a novel, but stick with it!

***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle***, by Avi

***Walk Two Moons***, by Sharon Creech

***The Sword in the Stone***, by T.H. White

***The Story of the Treasure Seekers***, by E. Nesbit

***The Princess and the Goblin***, by George MacDonald

***Journey to the Center of the Earth***, by Jules Verne

***Gulliver's Travels***, by Jonathan Swift

After choosing and reading your book, you will need to **write a three-paragraph essay about the book**. Please follow the outline below to help you know what should be included in each paragraph. I am looking for creative writing, neat handwriting, spelling, grammar, and to get to know your strengths and weaknesses as a reader and a writer. Your essay needs to be typed and double spaced using 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font. All spelling and grammar should be correct. **For current LCA students: all dress-ups and openers should be used throughout the paper to demonstrate that you can use them fluidly.**

### **Paragraph 1 (5-7 sentences)**

- Title of the book
- Author of the book
- Setting (where and when)
- A basic introduction and description of the main characters. you should describe what they are like as well as their role in the story (hero, villain, etc.)

### **Paragraph 2 (8-10+ sentences)**

- Summarize the plot of the story
- Tell about the main problem and the solution, if any, to that problem
- Be selective about the information you include. Only include what you think is MOST important, without leaving out too many details. Many times people do not want to give away the ending of the novel, but you need to explain how the book ends so that I know that you indeed did read and understand the novel.

### **Paragraph 3 (6+ sentences)**

- Tell what you thought of the book (your opinion –would you recommend it to a friend) and explain why
- What is one LESSON that you think you can learn from this book? What event or character taught you this?