



**Ponce De Leon Middle School**  
**A Magnet Schools of America School of Excellence**  
**An International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program**  
**SUMMER READING 2025**

May 27, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians: ☺☺☺

As this school year ends and we prepare for summer vacations, we would like to remind you that according to the M-DCPS Comprehensive Reading Plan, students are required to read during the summer.

**ESOL Students LEVELS 1 and 2 ONLY will read Sara, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan.**  
**2-Complete the Summe Reading Journal. The Language arts Teacher will collect it during the**  
**Second Week of School. (ESOL STUDENTS LEVELS 1 AND 2 only)**

Incoming 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade students		
Title	Author	Grade level
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora	Pablo Cartaya	6-8
Incoming 6 <sup>th</sup> Graders- you can pass by the school for a free copy of the book.		

Incoming 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade students		
Title	Author	Grade Level
The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora	Pablo Cartaya	6-8

Incoming 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade students		
Title	Author	Grade level
Freak the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick	6-8

Turn to the back of this packet  
to find the activities you need to  
complete.

Select **two options** from the list below to complete, using the book you read for your **Summer Reading** assignment. Your project must include the following: The **title** of the book, the **author's** name and **your** full name. To demonstrate excellence, your project should meet all requirements, be **bold, colorful, neat, and thorough** in presentation. A **typed copy** of your project is **due to your Language Arts teacher during the second week of school**.

1- **Book-Inspired Poem and Illustration**-Write an original poem that connects to the book you have read. Your poem should focus on key elements such as the **plot**, the **main character's emotions**, or your **personal connection** to the story. Your poem must be **at least thirty lines long**, use vivid language, imagery, and emotion to reflect the themes and experiences in the book, and **include an illustration** that visually connects your poem to the story. This can be hand-drawn or digitally created. Be creative, thoughtful, and make sure your poem and illustration clearly relate to the book's content and message.

2- **Movie Poster Design – Book Advertisement**-Create a **movie-style poster** to advertise your book as if it were being released as a major film. Your poster should include: **A creative title and slogan** that captures the heart of the story. **Images of real actors** you would cast as the main characters. **Artwork, symbols, and colors** reflect the story's plot, themes, and mood, and a design that gives viewers a **clear idea of what the book is about**.

Be **creative and detailed**, this is your chance to visually sell the story as a professional movie promotion. Use color, bold visuals, and thoughtful symbolism to make your poster stand out.

3- **Story Timeline – Visual Project**-Create a **timeline featuring at least 8 major events** from your book. Your timeline should be both visually engaging and informative. Be sure to include the following: **Drawings or magazine cutouts** to represent each key event. **Captions** that clearly describe what happens in each event and why it is important. **Color and creativity** to make your timeline visually appealing and easy to follow. Make sure the events are in **chronological order** and reflect the most important moments in the story.

4- **Movie Pitch – Two Page- Write a two-page pitch** to a movie producer explaining why this story would make a great film. Your pitch should include a summary of the story's most compelling elements—such as its plot, characters, themes, and setting—and explain why these aspects would appeal to audiences on the big screen. In addition, include **one paragraph about the author**, highlighting their background, writing style, and achievements. Explain why the author would be an excellent choice to help produce or consult on film adaptation. You should **visit the author's official website** to conduct research and gather accurate information for this part of the assignment. Be sure your writing is clear, persuasive, and free of spelling and grammar errors.

5- **Character Diary – Minimum of 3 Journal Entries**-Write a character diary from the perspective of the main character in the story. Create at least **three journal entries**. Each entry should describe key events that happened during the story and include reflections on how those events affected the character and why. Each entry must be **at least half a page long** and should demonstrate your best spelling, grammar, and writing skills.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

Ponce de Leon Middle School promotes personal integrity in all areas of life including the learning process. The goal of Ponce Middle School's Academic Honesty Policy is to ensure that teachers, students, and parents understand and practice values and skills that result in an academically honest environment.

As part of Approaches to Learning, students learn the value of thoughtful investigation, of giving others credit for their work, and of synthesizing information so that it becomes part of the student's body of knowledge, rather than an empty exercise in copying others' creations. Students also learn to recognize when collaboration is appropriate and when it is not appropriate.

### **AT PONCE:**

**"We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences."**