

## 6th Grade ELA Summer Assignment



Hello 6th graders! We put together these projects to keep your mind active during the summer and give you a preview of the kinds of work you will do in 6th grade. Your teachers will look at your work to get to know you as a reader and writer.

**Calendar:** Use this chart to complete your ELA summer assignment. Following this will help you pace out the work instead of stressing to complete it all in one day. We will collect this on the first day you have ELA class in September.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5-8
<b>Myth Task:</b> Pick 1 myth to learn about	<b>Myth Task:</b> Creative Response to the myth	<b>Biography Task:</b> Read & Respond based on a selected biography	<b>Biography Task:</b> Interview and write a biography of a person you know	<b>Independent Reading Task:</b> Read a book and respond to the prompt

**Formatting Your Responses:** You may hand write all of these assignments or create a Google document that you can keep adding into to complete these Weekly ELA Summer Tasks. On the document, label each task clearly (Example “Week 1: Myth Task”). Please use 12pt font, Times New Roman.







### Week 1: Myth Task

*In your 6th grade Social Studies class, you will be learning more about myths. Myths are traditional stories that help explain events in nature (for example, where the sun goes when it sets) or social life lessons (for example, what happens when you ignore your parent’s advice) and they often have supernatural characters. You will find that ELA and SS use similar structures and topics.*

*During this summer assignment, you will have the chance to preview some of the myths you will be learning about. For many 6th graders, this is their favorite unit.*

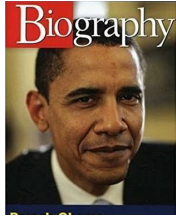
**Directions:** Read 1 myth from below to focus on for this week.

Myth Title	Link to Story Reading	Youtube Video Link
“Demeter and her Daughter Persephone” 	<a href="http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/textonly19837-demeter-and-her-daughter-persephone.html">http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/textonly19837-demeter-and-her-daughter-persephone.html</a>	Story in english: <a href="https://youtu.be/fTNR1N0gOis">https://youtu.be/fTNR1N0gOis</a>  Story in spanish: <a href="https://youtu.be/woS1o-CkHQ8">https://youtu.be/woS1o-CkHQ8</a>
“Arachne the Spinner” 	<a href="http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/textonly131-arachne-the-spinner.html">http://myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends/textonly131-arachne-the-spinner.html</a>	Story in english: <a href="https://youtu.be/XvUHcsZOjJ8">https://youtu.be/XvUHcsZOjJ8</a>  Story in spanish: <a href="https://youtu.be/OH_xcQSPqEU">https://youtu.be/OH_xcQSPqEU</a>
“The Legend of Princess Yennenga” 	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/fespaco/stallion.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/fespaco/stallion.shtml</a>	Story in english: <a href="https://youtu.be/Wwp96BxTK-M">https://youtu.be/Wwp96BxTK-M</a>
“Moni Mekhala and Ream Eyso” Myth of lightning, thunder and rain 	<a href="http://sites.asiasociety.org/dancecambodia/sguide1.htm#rain">http://sites.asiasociety.org/dancecambodia/sguide1.htm#rain</a>	Story in english: <a href="https://youtu.be/UI9ysDvkuLA">https://youtu.be/UI9ysDvkuLA</a>

**\*Still interested in more myths? Look at the last page for more readings.**



**Week 2: Myth Creative Response:** Create a graphic (drawing) of the most important or interesting part of the myth. Write 1-3 sentences to explain the drawing.





### Week 3: Biography Task

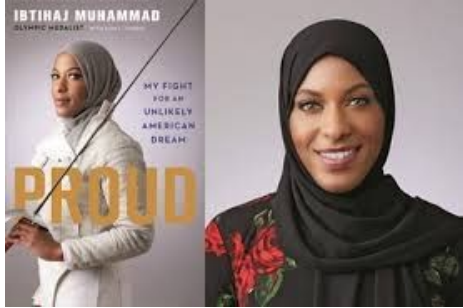
*A biography is a detailed description of a person's life written by someone else. Biographers often chose to write about an individual to highlight a theme. Whenever you read a biography, think about what lesson the author wants to teach through this text. To determine this lesson, think about what we can learn from the individual's life.*

**Directions:** Choose at least one biography to read. Then pick one way to respond.

☐ **Step 1:** Select at least 1 person from below to read about

Person Name	Link to Biography
Sandra Cisneros, Writer 	Reading: <a href="#">Biography on Sandra Cisneros</a>  Video: <a href="https://youtu.be/jeRycn7gTb8">https://youtu.be/jeRycn7gTb8</a>  Here is a picture book she wrote: <a href="https://youtu.be/n4hFMPr_pi8">https://youtu.be/n4hFMPr_pi8</a>
Walter Dean Myers, Writer 	Reading: <a href="https://walterdeanmyers.net/about/">https://walterdeanmyers.net/about/</a>  Video 1: <a href="https://youtu.be/funK7DKaPwI">https://youtu.be/funK7DKaPwI</a>  Video 2: <a href="https://youtu.be/34WS_E8gAnw">https://youtu.be/34WS_E8gAnw</a>  Here is a picture book he wrote and was illustrated by his son: <a href="#">Harlem</a>

Ibtihaj Muhammad, Athlete



Reading: [Biography of Ibtihaj Muhammad](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/mr5j-Lkk7rw>

A picture book she wrote about her childhood:  
<https://youtu.be/XJiTBmfy-LI>

Yuri Kochiyama, Activist



Reading: [Biography about Yuri Kochiyama](#)

Video: <https://vimeo.com/93335564>

Lil Nas X, singer



Reading: [Biography on Lil Nas X](#)

Video: <https://youtu.be/FgYHHSQcROk>

Greta Thunberg, Activist



Reading:  
<https://www.biography.com/activist/greta-thunberg>

Video: <https://youtu.be/VzLuAHLR53A>

**❑ Step 2: Pick One way to respond from below**

**(A)** Answer the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How questions about one person you chose from the list in Step 1.

**(B)** Draw a picture or make a comic to show at least 2 important moments from the person's life from Step 1.

**(C)** Write a paragraph (at least 5 complete sentences) that identifies one trait that best describes the individual from Step 1 and at least two details (examples or quotes) from the text that best illustrate that trait. \*Tip: To determine an individual's trait, pay close attention to the person's actions, words, thoughts, and feelings. You can also consider how other people respond to the individual.



## **Week 4: Biography Task**

**Directions:** Interview someone you know well. Be sure to ask questions that include background information, challenges, and important decisions, and successes. You can also include who or what influenced this person as well as his/her achievements or proudest accomplishments. Follow Steps 1-2.

**❑ Step 1:** Decide who you will interview. It can be a neighbor, family member, or trusted adult.

**❑ Step 2:** Create questions for an interview and interview the person! Write up your questions and the person's answers.

**Tip:** You could interview the person by phone, through email or in-person. Questions you create can be used to collect facts about this person's life; for example, "Where were you born?" Other questions should ask the subject to share stories and give detailed explanations; for example, "Tell about a time you had to make an important decision. How did it influence your life?"

## Week 5- 8: Independent Reading

**Directions:** Read a book of your choice. Write the title and author below. \* *A note to parents and guardians: Talk with your children about the books they are reading. If you would like to borrow an e-book, go to <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/borrow/ebooks-audiobooks> and here is a great youtube channel with picture books read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SankofaReadAloud/videos>*

### ☐ Step 1: Select a book

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

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

### ☐ Step 2: Choose 1 question below to answer about **one** book you read this summer. Write one full paragraph answering that question neatly on a sheet of loose leaf or typed. Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.

1. Would you be friends with the main character of this book? Why or why not.
2. What is your favorite moment in the book? Explain why it is your favorite part.
3. Which character is your favorite OR least favorite? Explain why they are your favorite or least favorite character.
4. What is one decision a character makes in your book? Do you agree or disagree with their choice? Explain why.

### **Questions if you read a book without characters:**

1. What is one important thing you learned from this book? Explain why it is important.
2. What is the main idea of this book? Explain how you know.

### **Bonus Work:**

Step 1: Take 3 pictures or make 3 drawings that show important parts of your family, neighborhood, or home.

Step 2: Explain why you took each picture or included that drawing

### **\*Still interested in more myths?**

**For Myths from around the world:** <http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths.htm>

If you really like myths, check out these books out which are fantasy stories that include ancient myths and gods from different cultures:

- West African myths and African-American folk tales:
  - Tristan Strong Punches A Hole in the Sky (a series) by Kwame Mbalia
- Haitian and Caribbean myths and folktales:
  - The Jumbies by Baptiste, Tracey
- Indian myths and folktales:
  - Aru Shah and the End of Time (a series) by Roshani Chokshi
  - The Serpent's Secret (a series) by DasGupta, Sayantani
- Latinx myths and folktales:
  - Charlie Hernández & the League of Shadows by Calejo, Ryan
- Ancient Mayan myths and folktales:
  - The Storm Runner Series (a series) by Jennifer Cervantes
- Korean mythology:
  - Dragon Pearl (a series) by Lee, Yoon Ha
- Egyptian mythology:
  - Kane Chronicles (a series) by Rick Riordan
- Greek Mythology:
  - Percy Jackson (a series) by Rick Riordan