

Rising Sixth Graders

2019-2020 English Summer Reading Instructions

St. Paul's Episcopal School views summer assignments as a valuable pursuit for the college preparatory student. Summer assignments provide the student with the opportunity for reading enrichment, independent study, time-management and continuity of content review. An additional advantage is that the students begin the school year with a common body of knowledge.

Summer reading books for all grades are available at St. Paul's Campus Store.

Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution by Avi

ISBN: 978-1-4424-1441-9

Sixth Grade Summer Reading instructions: All rising sixth grade students will read *Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution* by Avi, and complete the form called "Whose Phone is This?" (Attached). Students will turn in the "Whose Phone is This?" form the first day of class. Students will also use the information from the form and the summer reading book to write an in-class paper.

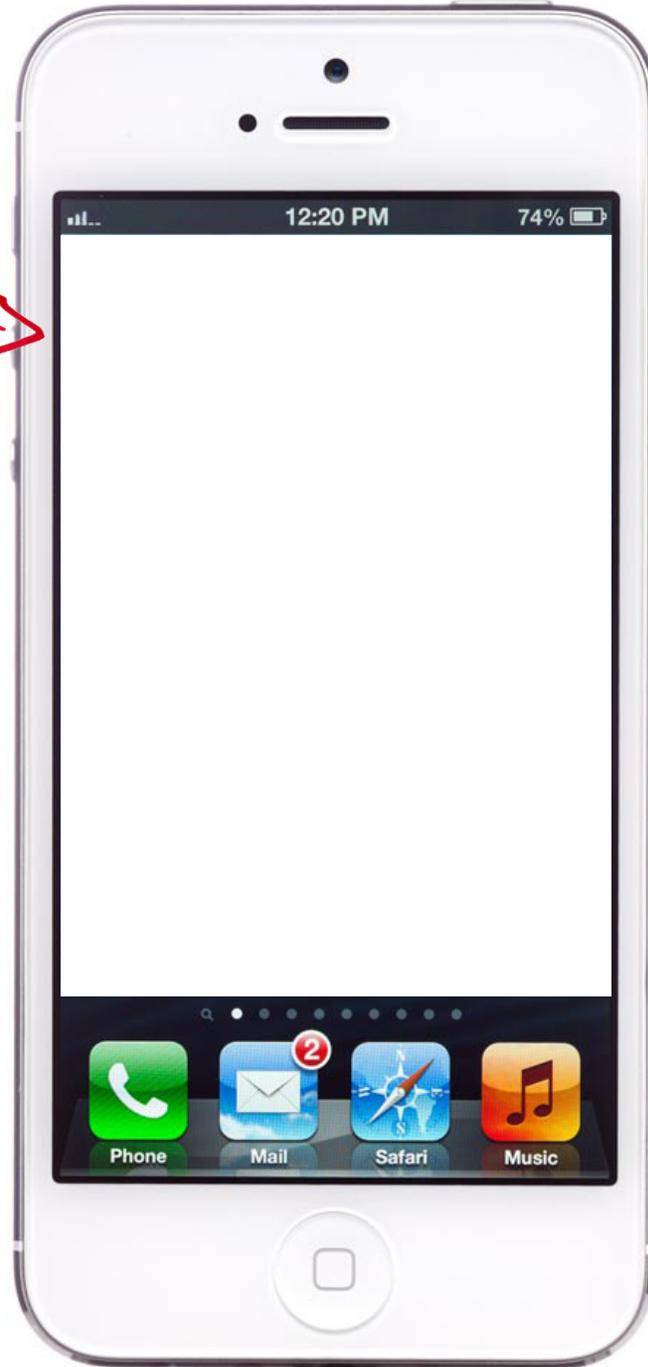
Summary: In 1776, young Sophia Calderwood witnesses the execution of Nathan Hale in New York City, which is newly occupied by the British army. Sophia is horrified by the event and resolves to do all she can to help the American cause. Recruited as a spy, she becomes a maid in the home of General Clinton, the supreme commander of the British forces in America. Through her work she becomes aware that someone in the American army might be switching sides, and she uncovers a plot that will grievously damage the Americans if it succeeds. But the identity of the would-be traitor is so shocking that no one believes her, and so Sophia decides to stop the treacherous plot herself, at great personal peril: She's young, she's a girl, and she's running out of time. And if she fails, she's facing an execution of her own.

Whose Phone Is This?

Choose one of the characters and complete the three steps to show what would be on this person's cell phone. Be sure your answers are written in complete sentences. If you need more room, feel free to continue writing on the back of this sheet.

1 Wallpaper – Sketch the character's cell phone wallpaper with colored pencils. Then, explain why this image choice would appeal to this character:

2 Email – This character just received two messages. Thinking back over the reading, explain which other characters just sent messages to this character and what is the content of each message:



3 Playlist – Write three song titles with artists' names that would likely be on this character's playlist. Be sure to explain your reasoning as to why these three songs would appeal to this character:

Whose Phone Is This?

Choose one of the characters and complete the three steps to show what would be on this person's cell phone. Be sure your answers are written in complete sentences. If you need more room, feel free to continue writing on the back of this sheet.

- 1 Wallpaper** – Sketch the character's cell phone wallpaper with colored pencils. Then, explain why this image choice would appeal to this character:

This was a photo that Jem snapped of Scout and her father when they weren't looking. It's Scout's favorite photo, so she made it her wallpaper/screensaver. Scout idolizes her father, Atticus Finch, and this rare moment of tenderness from him reminds her every day that he loves her and will always provide a safe, comforting place when the trials of the world leave her feeling weary.

- 2 Email** – This character just received two messages. Thinking back over the reading, explain which other characters just sent messages to this character and what is the content of each message:

Scout just received two messages, one from Calpurnia and one from Dill. Calpurnia wants to know where Scout is because she was supposed to be home two hours ago. Dill sent his message to let Scout know that his mom is going to allow him to leave early to vacation at Aunt Rachel's house for the next school holiday. He wants to make sure that Jem and Scout will be there when he arrives.

EXAMPLE: Scout Finch, *To Kill a Mockingbird*



- 3 Playlist** – Write three song titles with artists' names that would likely be on this character's playlist. Be sure to explain your reasoning as to why these three songs would appeal to this character:

1. "Why Can't We Be Friends?" by War

Scout doesn't understand why different classes of people can't be friends. For example, her failed attempt to befriend Walter Cunningham leaves her perplexed.

2. "Just a Girl" by No Doubt

Scout wants to resist Aunt Alexandra's attempts to feminize her and this anthem of girl power and questioning of traditional gender expectations is fitting for Scout.

3. "Waiting on the World to Change" by John Mayer

In the Jim Crow South of Scout's childhood, it seems like there's little she can do to evoke a positive social change. This, of course, isn't true. One person, we discover, has the power to change the hearts and minds of many people.