

Dear Rising 5th Grade Students,

I am so looking forward to working with you in the coming year. Please read over all of the directions to make sure you get full credit for your work. **Your summer reading answers and paragraphs will be due the first week of school and will count as a test grade**, so be sure that you complete those. **The vocabulary section is highly recommended**, and this practice will set you up for success as you enter 5th grade.

Part I: Summer Reading (Required)

Part II: Vocabulary Study Section (Highly Recommended)

See you soon!

Mrs. Cooper

5th-grade English Teacher

Student's First and Last Names:

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### **Part I: Summer Reading**

A. Everyone will read *Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome and answer the reading questions in complete sentences.

**You may write your answers neatly on notebook paper or type your answers and print them to hand in.**

Read the chapter first and then answer the questions. You are welcome to listen to an audible version of the book; if you choose to listen to the novel, I encourage you to read along as you listen. I selected this novel because it is about a child your age going through a big moment of change. He finds comfort and peace through reading, which is a hope I have for you!

#### **Chapter 1**

1. Where did Langston, our main character, live before he moved to Chicago?
2. How does Langston feel about his apartment?
3. Why does Langston carry his key in his shoe?

#### **Chapter 2**

1. Why doesn't Langston mind sharing a bathroom with other people?
2. How do the other students treat Langston? Why?
3. Who are the three bullies who bother Langston the most?

#### **Chapter 3**

1. What sounds from the building keep Langston awake at night? Describe at least two.
2. How does Langston's father act when Langston cries about his mother?

#### **Chapter 4**

1. Why didn't Langston go to the library in Alabama?
2. What kind of learning did Langston's father want him to do?
3. How does the librarian help Langston at the end of the chapter?

#### **Chapter 5**

1. Which family member did Langston have to leave behind in Alabama?

2. Where does Langston go right after school? Why do you think he goes there?

## **Chapter 6**

1. Why is the library named for Mr. Hall?
2. Is the library just for 'colored folks'?

## **Chapter 7**

1. Who is Langston Hughes?
2. Why does Langston's father still shop with Mr. Fields if he is mean?
3. What does Langston learn about his name?

## **Chapter 8**

1. What does Langston dislike about walking the streets in Chicago?
2. Why does Langston's father send money to Aunt Lena?
3. How does Langston feel about his new church?

## **Chapter 9**

1. What does Langston learn by reading the letter?
2. What type of flower reminds Langston of his mother?

## **Chapter 10**

1. The words at the beginning of this chapter are slanted and in italics because the author is setting them apart to work as a flashback. What is Langston remembering?
2. How would you describe Langston's mood at the end of the chapter?

## **Chapter 11**

1. What reasons does Langston's father say to explain why they moved up north/
2. Who is Pearl and how does she show kindness to Langston and his father?

## **Chapter 12**

1. What sad event has happened?
2. Who is going to look after Langston? Can you make a prediction about how this might change the relationship between Langston and this person?

## **Chapter 13**

1. What is one good thing about his father being gone?
2. What is one question Langston would like to ask Langston Hughes?
3. Whom does Langston see at the library?

#### **Chapter 14**

1. How has Langston's opinion about Miss Fulton changed?
2. What job does Miss Fulton have? How might this be helpful to Langston?
3. What does Miss Fulton do after dinner that is calming for Langston?

#### **Chapter 15**

1. Where has Lyman been?
2. What does Langston get at the library this time?

#### **Chapter 16**

1. Why is Langston distracted in class?
2. What is torn up? How does Langston respond to this?

#### **Chapter 17**

1. What did Aunt Gennie give to Langston's mother for gifts?
2. Why did Langston's mother stop reading so much after she got married?

#### **Chapter 18**

1. What are the three things that help Langston keep "mad thoughts" out of his head about Lyman?
2. What secret does Langston keep about his mother's letter?

#### **Chapter 19**

1. How is Clem helpful to Langston in this chapter?
2. What sad thing do Clem and Langston have in common?

#### **Chapter 20**

1. How has Langston's father changed as a character during the book?
2. Read the last paragraph on page 104 carefully. How does Langston think his mother helped him?

**B. Next, choose two additional books to read from the list below.** You are welcome to listen to an audible version of the book; if you choose to listen to the novel, I encourage you to read along as you listen.

**For each of the books, you should write a paragraph that is at least 5-7 sentences long.** You may write more if you wish! You have practiced paragraphs all during 4th grade, so you know that you should have an introductory sentence, several details, and a conclusion sentence.

**In each paragraph, be sure to include the following:**

- the name of the novel and author
- the characters you liked the most and an explanation of why
- at least two events from the story that you found interesting
- whether you would recommend the novel to a friend. Why or why not?

Be sure to check over your work, checking your use of capitalization and punctuation. Remember to indent each paragraph. You may write your work neatly on notebook paper, or you may type it and print it. Your name and the date should be in the upper left corner of your paper. This is the first piece of writing I will read from you, so show me what you are capable of!

**Choose two books to read from the S.C. Children's Book Award list:**  
([Click here](#) to see a brochure with covers and summaries of each book)

*All the Impossible Things* by Lindsay Lackey

*The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman

*Finding Orion* John David Anderson

*The Ghost in Apartment 2R* by Denis Markell

*Guest: A Changeling Tale* by Mary Downing Hahn

*Hello From Renn Lake* by Michele Weber Hurwitz

*Lety Out Loud* by Angela Cervantes

*Mananaland* by Pam Munoz Ryan

*More to the Story* by Hena Khan

*On Thin Ice* by Michael Northrop

*Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices* by S.K. Ali & Aisha Saeed

*Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Gary D. Schmidt

*Scouts* by Shannon Greenland

*Some Places More Than Others* by Renee Watson

*Song For A Whale* by Lynne Kelly

*Stay* by Bobbie Pyron

*Strange Birds: A Field Guide To Ruffling Feathers* by Celia C. Perez

*When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson

*Woke: A Young Poet's Call To Justice* by Mahogany L. Browne

*A Wolf Called Wander* by Rosanne Parry

## **Part II: Vocabulary Study Section**

**I suggest making flashcards for the following word parts to help build your vocabulary.**

**A prefix is a word part that comes at the beginning of a word. I would like for you to study the following prefixes.**

- sub - = under (subway, submarine)
- pre - = before (preview, pre-pay)
- anti- = against (anti-war, antibacterial)
- un - = not (unprepared, uneven)
- in/im - = not (incorrect, impossible, immature)
- centi - = hundredth (centigram, centimeter)
- auto - = self (autobiography, automatic)
- bio- = life (biology)
- de- = away from, opposite of (decline, deform)
- extra - = outside of (extraordinary, extracurricular)
- mal - = bad (malnutrition, malfunction)
- re- = again, back (rewind, review, replay)
- uni- = one (unicycle, unite)
- bi - = two (bicycle, bicep)
- tri - = three (tricycle, tripod)

**A suffix is a word part that comes at the end of a word. I would like for you to study the following suffixes.**

- - er = one who (teacher, leader)
- -able, - ible = able to be (flexible, capable)
- - ary = a place for, having to do with (library, planetary, imaginary)
- - ology = the study of something (zoology, geology)
- - ity/-ty = the state of being (flexibility, creativity)
- - ist = one who makes or studies (artist, biologist)

**Roots are the building blocks of words, and many come from Latin and Greek. Knowing roots will help you learn and guess word meanings. I would like for you to study the following roots.**

- metr = measure (meter, centimeter, barometer)
- scrib/script = write (describe, scribe,)
- graph = write or draw (autograph, telegraph)
- mob/mov = movement (mobile, moveable)
- astr/stella = star (astronomer, stellar, constellation)
- luna = moon (lunar, lunatic)

- geo = earth (Geology, Geography)
- terra = land (terrain, territory)
- hydro/aqua = water (hydrant, hydrate, aquarium, aquamarine)
- fract/frag = to break (fracture, fragment, fragile)
- tract = to pull or drag (tractor, traction, attract)
- onym = name (synonym, antonym, homonym)
- bene = good/well (benefit, benefactor)
- opt = the best (optimum, optimist)
- aud = to hear (audible, auditorium)
- vid/vis = to see (visual, evidence, video)
- chron = time (chronicle, chronological)
- ann = year (annual, anniversary)
- circ/cycl= circle (circus, circuit, circumference, recycle)
- bibl = book (Bible, bibliography)
- verb = word (verbal, proverb)