

## Learning Experiences for 6-8 Students

### Before Reading

- Create a plan for reading (i.e., set a goal for the number of pages or chapters to be read daily).
- Preview the book by reading the title and the front/back covers and make several predictions about the book/story.
- Record information for both of the bullets above in your journal.

### During Reading

- Use paper or a notebook as a journal associated with the book. Each daily journal entry should include:
  - Date and pages read,
  - A summary of major events, and
  - A personal reaction to what you read.
- Create a page in your journal for each of the following questions. As you read each day, collect evidence from the book/story and record it on the appropriate page of the journal.
  - Identify and describe the main characters in your novel. How do they affect each other?
  - Describe the most important events so far. How are the characters affected by these events?
  - What has the author done to make the book interesting, including his or her use of language?
  - How have the characters changed throughout the novel?
  - Explain a lesson this book teaches how it applies to your own life.
  - What is your overall reaction to the book?
- Collect, in your journal, 10-15 new words to you and/or words important to the story and discuss them with someone in your family. Using context clues, create your own definitions and include them in your journal.

### After Reading

- Create a performance (e.g., skit, puppet show, dance, written summary), drawings, and/or music reflecting an alternate ending for the book information or to predict what might happen next.
- Write a letter to the author of the book explaining your reactions.
- Relate information from the book to other real-life events and discuss these with other people you know.

### Other Activities (Complete five of the following each week.)

- Budget, plan and cook a meal with your family. Discuss culture as it relates to ingredients and dining etiquette.
- Take a walk/hike and track your heart rate before, during, and after the activity. Graph these numbers over the course of the week and write a short reflection about your experience. Consider taking a family member with you and compare the numbers.
- Take a walk/hike and identify as many signs of a changing season as you can. Record your observations with drawings and/or writing.
- Plan an art project to reflect some aspect of your life. Provide a summary of your work to guide the viewer in his/her understanding.
- Watch a science or social studies-oriented documentary/newscast, read a newspaper article, or listen to a radio broadcast. Summarize the claim being made, evidence provided in support of the claim, and the reasoning.
- Using household items, develop an invention or innovation and pitch the idea to your family. Discuss how it will improve the lives of those using it.
- Practice muscle relaxation by sitting in a comfortable position or lying down. Starting with your major muscle groups, slowly relax your legs, arms, back, neck, etc. until you relax all muscles. Slowly breathe in and out as you relax each muscle.
- Band/Chorus/Orchestra students should continue practicing daily. At the end of each week, write and reflect upon how you have improved and set goals for continued improvement for the next week.