

## Summer Reading Assignment

Greetings, Trailblazers!

I am very excited to be joining you in September as your new teacher, and I am looking forward to getting to know you all. One thing you will soon learn about me is I love to explore the United States. My daughter and I have driven cross-country twice in the last 5 years! Another is that I love to read, whether it's under a tree in my backyard, at the beach, or curled up on my sofa on a rainy day. Summer is the perfect time for a good book.

Before the start of school, I would like you to read two books, and I hope you will read more! The first is a book of your choice. You will prepare a book talk about your book to present to the class during our first week together. Book talks are a great way to share a book you've enjoyed reading and an opportunity to hear about books that might interest you from your classmates. Use the guidelines below to help you prepare for your book talk.

### How To Give A Book Talk

- First, begin by choosing a book that interests you. For suggestions, check out the lists at <https://www.goodreads.com>.
- As you read, prepare for your book talk by taking notes or using sticky notes to mark parts of the book that surprise you, quotes that speak to you, and parts of the book that you connect with.
- The goal of a book talk is to convince members of your audience to read the book. In a sense, you are creating a fun and exciting commercial for your book. Your book talk should be no more than 3 minutes long, so choose what you want to share carefully.
- Make sure you practice your book talk. You may use notes to help you remember what you want to say, but you should not read your book talk from a piece of paper.

Your book talk should include:

**Opening:** The purpose of the opening is to hook your audience. Start with a quote, a question for your audience, or a vivid description of the main character. Be sure to include the title and author of the book.

**Summary:** In no more than a paragraph or two, summarize the book. Be sure you introduce the main character of the book and the problem they are facing, but don't give away the ending!

**Opinion:** Share your opinion of the book. How did you feel about the book? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not? Who do you think would most enjoy reading the book?

**Closing:** This is your last opportunity to "sell" your book. End by asking a rhetorical question (a question that is asked without expecting an answer), reading a meaningful quote from your book, or leaving your audience with a cliffhanger.

For examples of book talks, click the links below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Zi6rw1K8LQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjXPr2Q0Pb4>

The second book I would like you to read is *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan. The author was inspired to write this book by the stories her grandmother, Esperanza Ortega Munoz, told her as a child. As the story unfolds, Esperanza, a thirteen-year old Mexican girl must face the challenges of immigrating to the United States and leaving her life of privilege behind to become a migrant farm laborer in California in the 1930's. Along the way, she learns many valuable lessons about hope, courage, and the importance of family.

After you have read the book, please choose **ONE** of the projects below to complete. Your project is due on the first day of school. Your work should represent the best work you can do, show your creativity and thoughtfulness, and reflect what you learned from reading the book.

- Create a guide for newly arrived migrant workers to the “company camp”. Your guide should include a description of the jobs at the camp, appropriate attire for the job, working conditions, what camp life is like, the benefits of working at the camp, and the potential challenges they may face.
- Write a letter from Esperanza to Abuelita. Consider what she would want her to know about what she’s been through and what she might not want to share with her grandmother. Be sure to properly format your letter.
- Create a comic strip that shows what happens after the story ends. What do you think the future has in store for Esperanza? Your comic strip should include at least 5 panels and have both pictures and dialogue.
- The title of each chapter in the book is named for a fruit. Design a poster that shows the title of each chapter, a picture of the fruit it is named for, and the significance of that fruit to the chapter. For example, the title of chapter 10 is *Los Aguacates*, which is avocado in Spanish. In this chapter, Esperanza rubs avocado on her hands to heal them.
- Write an “I Am” poem from Esperanza’s point of view using [this template](#) . When your poem is completed, neatly write it or type and paste it onto a large piece of blank paper or poster board and create a collage around it that connects with the ideas in your poem.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, and I’ll see you in September!

Ms. Horan

# Writing an "I Am" Poem

## MODEL

### FIRST STANZA

I am (2 special characteristics you have)  
I wonder (something of curiosity)  
I hear (an imaginary sound)  
I see (an imaginary sight)  
I want (an actual desire)  
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

### SECOND STANZA

I pretend (something you actually pretend to do)  
I feel (a feeling about something imaginary)  
I touch (an imaginary touch)  
I worry (something that bothers you)  
I cry (something that makes you sad)  
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

### THIRD STANZA

I understand (something that is true)  
I say (something you believe in)  
I dream (something you dream about)  
I try (something you really make an effort about)  
I hope (something you actually hope for)  
I am (the first line of the poem repeated)

## EXAMPLE

I am polite and kind  
I wonder about my kids' future  
I hear a unicorn's cry  
I see Atlantis  
I want to do it all over again  
I am polite and kind

I pretend I am a princess  
I feel an angel's wings  
I touch a summer's cloud  
I worry about violence  
I cry for my Gram  
I am polite and kind

I understand your love for me  
I say children are our future  
I dream for a quiet day  
I try to do my best  
I hope the success of my children  
I am polite and kind.