

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Nicole Ranson, and I will be your child's 5th grade teacher here at Cathedral Academy. While I am looking forward to summer break, I am already thinking and planning for next year. Summer should be filled with lots of fun outdoor activities. However, rainy days, lazy days, and even those too hot to move days should be filled with books! Continuing the reading habit throughout the summer is important to your child becoming a successful reader.

One way we do this is with our summer reading assignment. I'm excited to announce that we will be reading *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop. It's the first book of a whole series of adventures stories that I really think your child will enjoy. You can purchase the book at any book store or check it out at your local public library.

I would also encourage them to read a daily devotional each day. Additionally, look for ways to have your child write often. If you go on vacation this summer, encourage your child to take a journal with them and write a little bit about their trip each day. This is a great way for a child to get their thoughts organized onto paper. They can also write letters and put thoughts their prayer journal. Finding ways to make writing and reading fun and relational is the best way to help them excel and develop a love for learning. You can also pick out a big book and co-read it with them. You read a page, then they read a page. Finally, use the computer and apps on your phones and iPad to have them practice math facts. There are so many amazing math games available to have them "play" and learn at the same time.

Attached to this letter you will find your child's summer reading assignment. This is due the first day of school, Friday, August 11. We will also use this book during our reading time the first week to guide our class discussions. If you have any questions, please contact me at nicole.ranson@cathedralemail.com I look forward to a getting to know your child and your family this fall! Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Blessings,
Ms. Ranson



5th Grade Summer Reading

The Castle in the Attic

Elizabeth Winthrop

Answer the following questions about the novel on notebook paper. Answers must:

- Be handwritten
- Be in complete sentences
- Cover every part of the question
- Use evidence from the novel to support your answer
- Include page numbers when possible

Chapters 1 through 4:

1. William tries to convince Mrs. Phillips to stay. First, what does William say to persuade Mrs. Phillips to stay and second, what does he do?
2. Name 3 things that Mrs. Phillips does or says that show she cares about William. Use information from the story to support your answer.
3. Who is Alastor? What role, if any, did he play in the illness and eventual death of Sir Simon's father? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
4. Castle in the Attic is an example of a fantasy novel, a fictional story that is set in an unreal world, often with superhuman characters and monsters. Give three examples that demonstrate that this novel is a fantasy. Think of another novel that is an example of a fantasy and explain why you feel that it is a fantasy.

Chapters 5 through 8:

1. Do you think that William's plan to keep Mrs. Phillips from leaving shows that he really loves her? Why or why not? (Pick one side of the argument, not BOTH).
2. Find two pieces of evidence from chapters 5 through 8 that suggest that William does not trust his friend Jason.
3. William does not think things through before he acts. Give two examples of times when William does not think before he acts. Then go on to describe a time when you have done something without thinking and describe the consequences of your actions.

Chapters 9 through 12:

1. The author does not tell the readers what has happened to Sir Simon after he ran off into the woods. Why did the author omit (leave out) this information?
2. On page 102, Mrs. Phillips says, "You must find your own way through the forest, William." Other than the actual forest near the castle, what else could Mrs. Phillips be talking about?

3. On page 122 William is 'compassionate to the needy' when he helps the 'apple tree man.' What does William do to help him? Describe a time in your life when you showed compassion to a person in need or someone showed compassion to you.

Chapters 13 through 17:

1. What can you infer (make an educated guess) about the guards after the incident at the gate involving William and his dagger?

2. On page 145, Alastor says "It was rumored that he would return one day with a boy, and so he has." Why is it so important that 'the boy' was turned to lead?

3. What does William see when he looks into Alastor's mirror? Since the mirror shows you 'all of the cowardice, hatred, and greed inside of yourself,' how does this explain what William sees in the mirror?

4. Do you agree with Mrs. Phillips' statement that "a truly courageous person is the one who must first conquer fear within himself"? Explain what she means by that and then go on to describe a time when a real person from the past or present has been courageous and "likely" conquered the fear within themselves.