Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your child's Language Arts teacher has put together this packet of reading and writing practice to complete over the summer vacation. We hope that with your help and motivation, your student will work on this packet a little each week over the long vacation.

Students who complete the packet should return it to his/her Language Arts teacher by Friday, September 8, 2017. The completion of this portfolio packet is mandatory and given a grade.

A copy of this portfolio packet will be on the school’s website under the Guidance Department section.

Good luck and have a wonderful summer vacation!

Thank you,

Sixth Grade Language Arts Department

Overview: Students are to complete a Summer Portfolio that will include the following:

1. Personal Narrative
2. “I Am” Poem
3. Personal Collage
Personal Narrative

This is a multi-paragraph essay about yourself! This essay should have a catchy title and the paragraphs indented. The essay should include an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. This needs to be completed using your best hand-written or typed response. The font must should at least be 12-point but no more than 14. Write the essay in first person. There should be no pictures on this assignment.

Choose one of the following prompts:

- **Future Career**: Everyone has an idea of what they would like to do when they "grow up." Think about the career that you would like to have when you finish school. Think about why you would like to have this career. Write an essay explaining what career you would like to have when you "grow up." Explain at least three reasons why this is what you would like to do. Use specific details to explain and support your reasons.

- **Family Tree**: Where are you in the family tree? Are you the oldest, middle, youngest, or an only child? Write an essay explaining the advantages or disadvantages of your position in the family.

- **Difficult Decision**: Have you had a situation in your life when you had to make a difficult decision or choice you had to make? How did it influence your future life?

- **Summer Vacation**: Summer is a special time when you get to do fun things. You have more time during the day to choose activities that you enjoy doing with your friends or family, outdoors or indoors. There are many different ways to have fun in the summer. What's yours? Write a story about your favorite summer activity. There should be enough details in your story to show what you were doing and what made this your favorite activity.

- **Standing Up**: Think of a time that you took a stand for someone or an issue that you care for. Think about the details of the event and write a story that tells about what happened. Your narrative should show your readers why you decided to make a stand or try something that took nerve, give specifics on the events, and share how you felt after the event.

- **Goal Achieved**: Think of a time when you achieved a personal goal. Tell your readers about the story of how you met your goal. Be sure that your readers understand why the goal is important to you.
“I Am” Poem

The Purpose of writing an “I Am” poem is to help you express yourself as an individual. Below you will find the model of the poem that you should follow and an example of an “I Am” poem. Be creative, be audience appropriate but most all be yourself!

**MODEL OF THE POEM**

**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**

**Teacher**

I am a hard working teacher who loves to laugh
I wonder how my students will do this year
I hear their brains clicking
I see the light in their eyes
I want them to want to succeed
I am a hard working teacher who loves to laugh

I pretend I am always in control
I feel like I am swimming in quicksand sometimes
I touch the hearts and minds of others
I worry that I am not good enough
I cry when one of my family is in pain
I am a hard working teacher who loves to laugh

I understand I cannot save everyone
I say I still need to try
I dream of being the best teacher I can be
I try to make my classes interesting
I hope I never stop caring
I am a hard working teacher who loves to laugh

**YOUR NAME HERE**

**Personal Collage**

A collage is a work of art that combines various materials to create a composition with visual unity. You may use a variety of materials from scraps of wallpaper to dried flowers. Magazines, newspapers, and photographs are commonly used, but be creative by using a variety of items. This will allow your collage to be more inventive and intriguing.

Using one 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper you will only choose five items. You must give a short caption under each item that describes your connection with it. Think about your interests, hobbies, family, traditions, etc. Things that make you unique!