

Welcome to Sixth Grade!

In order to begin your year successfully, we have gathered some summer activities to help you prepare. One of the most challenging transitions into our class is personal responsibility and time management. This summer work will help you practice these two skills while reinforcing the academic skills you've already obtained.

IXL is an online math program for individual progression. Your login and password will unlock what I have assigned for you to be practicing throughout the summer. Work toward mastery with 30 hours as a great goal by the end of the summer.

- Step 1. Open your internet browser and go to www.ixl.com
- Step 2. Click the "Sign In" button in the top right corner.
- Step 3. Type your username in the first box. _____
- Step 4. Type your password in the second box. _____
- Step 5. Click the green "Sign In" button.
- Step 6. Choose your Math.
- Step 7. Click one of the skills we have assigned.
- Step 8. Begin practicing and try your best!

TypingClub is an online typing program that will help you become proficient with your typing skills. We do a lot of typing starting in sixth grade so this skill of typing with both speed and accuracy will benefit you now as well as in all future classes.

- Step 1. Open your internet browser and go to ruffing-montessori.educlub.com
- Step 2. Type your username in the first box. _____
- Step 3. Type your password in the second box. _____
- Step 4. Click the black "Sign In" button.
- Step 5. Click the blue "Start" button on Typing Grade 6.
- Step 7. Start with 1 and continue through the lessons.
- Step 8. Put your fingers on the home row keys and begin practicing!

You also have two books to read; **My Brother Sam is Dead** and **Jeremy Fink and the Mean of Life**. Both have been handed to you so you may start reading right away! My advice to you is to read My Brother Sam is Dead first so you can begin on the time capsule activity. The directions are attached. Then, as you work through the time capsule, read Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life.

There are 14 chapters and an epilogue in My Brother Sam is Dead. If you read a chapter each weekday night, you will be finished with that book by the end of three weeks and can begin with the project. (Hint: There are three full weeks left in June.) There are 20 chapters in Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life. If you continue to read a chapter each weekday night you will be finished with that book by the end of four weeks. (Hint: There are four and a half weeks in July!)

Planning out your time capsule may be more challenging, but going in with a plan by breaking a large assignment into smaller pieces will help. Plan out your own due dates and write them on your paper. Have a trusted adult help make realistic due dates around any vacations or plans you may already have in place for the summer. Do the one you are excited for first, but do not leave the one item you are dreading for last. There are a lot of options within these assignments; choose the items that most interest you! Read **all** the directions, and **all** of the options, before beginning. (Hint: There are seven categories of items to include in your capsule and there are seven full weeks of summer break left after June ends.)

If you have any questions, please email me! Your school email and password are included below. I will be happy to help you in any way. We can't wait for you to join our classroom!

~ Lauren and Kristen

lyankow@ruffingmontessori.org

Your email _____

Your password _____

Time Capsule

After reading *My Brother Sam Is Dead*, please design a time capsule that shows your comprehension of the novel. You will be creating a time capsule filled with documents, artifacts, and personal effects from the Meeker family's experience of the American Revolutionary War. Some everyday items that make great time capsules are (but not limited to): a large shoe box or large oatmeal cylinders. These will be shared in class after summer break.

On the outside of your time capsule write:

1779- Don't Open Until Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Items that will need to go into the time capsule:

1. Family Letter

My Due Date: _____

Write ONE letter that can be chosen from the characters below:

Susannah Meeker to Sam OR Sam to Susannah Meeker

Tim Meeker to Sam OR Sam to Tim Meeker

Include information from the novel, and incorporate 3-4 Revolutionary facts. Historic sites and events may provide the concrete information you need to complete this task. Write from your character's point of view. Please address and write your letters in an informal letter format.

2. Diary Entries of Family Members

My Due Date: _____

Write two diary entries for one (or two) of the following characters:

Susannah Meeker

Sam Meeker

Tim Meeker

Life Meeker

There should be at least TWO entries total. Include information about one of the historical conflicts that the character needs to confront in the novel. Your diary entry needs to be at least a full page long, handwritten in cursive, single-spaced.

Include the character's emotions regarding the conflict and personal insight into the character's point of view regarding the conflict. You may choose to write each entry as if you were the same character or two different characters but please remember to write it from the first-person point of view.

3. Literary Analysis Items

Pick ONE from **each** subtopic (plot development, characterization, historical content and literary elements), and include these items in your time capsule. Be creative, thorough, and think about the quality of your finalized product.

Plot Development

My Due Date: _____

-Story Board: A story board is a series of pictures and descriptions that retell the plot of a story. Your story board must include at least 6 pictures with captions of at least 3 sentences each.

-Picture Plot: Draw an object that represents a key component from the story and describe the 5 elements of a story at various places on the object. (Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Resolution)

-Comic Strip: Alright...I know this was not a humorous story, however, maybe you can find a way to find some humor in it. If that resonates with you, create a comic strip outlining the basic premise of the plot. Your comic must include at least 10 different scenes/boxes.

-Simply Summarize: Summarize the key components of each element of a story. Your summary should be at least 3 paragraphs, one for each element of a story (Beginning, Middle and End).

Characterization

My Due Date: _____

-Paper Dolls: Create 6 authentic paper dolls that represent different characters from the novel. Glue them to a piece of paper and include a short summary of who each character is and why they are important to the development of the plot.

-Eulogy: A eulogy is a tribute written to honor a person who has lost their life. Choose 2 characters from the story and write their eulogy. What would they be remembered for, and what gave their life meaning? 2 paragraphs for each character.

-Movie Marquee: Assume they are turning the novel into a movie. Create a movie poster where you cast the main characters in the novel with modern day actors. Your poster must represent at least 6 characters with a short summary of each. Be creative and have fun!

Historical Context

My Due Date: _____

-Benedict Arnold: Sam fought alongside Benedict Arnold. Research Benedict Arnold and write a brief biography of his life. How does history remember him? Why would he be included in this novel?

-Battle of Ridgefield Memorial: This notable battle was an important moment in the war. Today, the dead from both sides are buried together in a small cemetery in town "...foes in arms, brothers in death..." Research this battles and design a memorial with a description of the battle and the lives that were lost there.

-Cowboys Wanted Poster: The "cowboys" represented in this novel are different from the stereotypical cowboys of the wild west. Research the "cowboys" of the American Revolution and create a wanted poster for them that describes who they were and the types of crimes they committed.

-Prison Ships: There is much mention of the prison ships that existed during the Revolutionary War. Create a diagram of a prison ship and include 10 facts that you find interesting regarding prison ships.

Literary Elements

My Due Date: _____

-Conflict: What is the driving conflict of this story? Create a visual representation of this conflict and provide a well-developed paragraph explaining the conflict. Use specific examples from the novel to support your ideas.

-Imagery: Choose a section from this novel that is highly descriptive or emotional. Write a 21-line poem that describes this scene using vivid imagery. Your poem must also include a title and illustrations. It does not have to rhyme.

-Point of View: The novel is written in first person using Tim's point of view. We see his side of the story, but how would things be different if another character were to tell the story? Write a 3-paragraph prologue (beginning) to the story from the view point of another character.

4. Newspaper Clipping

My Due Date: _____

Write ONE newspaper clipping related to events and conflicts that were part of My Brother Sam Is Dead. You may look up some examples of old newspaper articles. Your typed news article should be two paragraphs long and include events of the time period. Choose a font and background as desired that makes it look dated. The first paragraph should include information that answers these questions: who, what, where, when, and why/how? The second paragraph should include interesting facts/information about the event.

Here are some possible headlines/news stories:

Yale students go off to fight Lobsterbacks!

Cowboys threaten Loyalists!

Executioner Putnam puts two Redding Natives to death.

Mother silently grieves.

Final Checklist of included items to go in my Time Capsule:

___ One Family Letter

___ ___ Two Diary Entries

___ One Plot Development Item

___ One Characterization Item

___ One Historical Context Item

___ One Literary Element Item

___ One Newspaper Clipping