Students are always asking us for ways to help them better remember what they’ve read. The answer to that question is actually to interact more with your books while you are reading.

There are three different question sheets in this packet that will hopefully help you do just that. Each one asks questions that are a little bit different than the others. While we are not going to collect these from you when you get back in the fall, you should try to use one, two or all three of these to help you while you are reading. Figure out which one you think will best help you and try using it.

Look them over and know that the more you slow down, think and write while you read, the better chance you have of understanding and remembering details about your book.

If you're feeling creative, by the way, drawing pictures and/or creating bookmarks about characters, places and events in your books are all great ideas that can help you understand and remember what you’ve read.
Summer Reading Question Sheet - Option 1

These questions are designed to help you gather detailed information to properly construct a summary paragraph. We will work on this a lot this year. It’s also a good idea to complete the other sheet that asks for your evaluation of the book.

Complete the questions below using as much specific details as possible.

Summary:

1. **Who was the main character or characters and describe them:**
   (ex. John Smith is an 8 year old adventurous boy who was always looking for his next adventure)

2. **Where and when was the story set:** (ex. The story took place in a small town in present time).

3. **What major problem or struggle did the main character(s) encounter in the story** (this is the conflict): (ex. John's love for adventure led to constant battles with his parents because he neglected his chores and homework. He couldn't figure out how to balance his love for adventure and his responsibilities)
4. **What was the most exciting or “action packed” part of the story (this is the climax):** (ex. One of John's adventures proved to be too dangerous. He became trapped in a make-shift (homemade) fort when it collapsed on him... would he get out?)

5. **How did the character(s) solve their major problem (conflict):** (ex. John was rescued from the collapsed fort and realized that if he had made the fort better, then it would not have collapsed on him. If John did his chores and homework, and then asked his dad to help him, then the fort would have been made properly and would not have collapsed on him. He will be sure to be honest and responsible in the future.)
Summer Reading Evaluation Sheet - Option 2

These questions are designed to help you gather information for an evaluation of 1 of the books you read over the summer.

An evaluation tells the reader your opinion about the book. You do not include opinions in a summary. Complete the questions below to provide you with a “scaffold” to build your evaluation.

Evaluation:

1. How did you feel about the book? Did you enjoy it and you couldn’t put it down, or did it bore you? Be specific by using “why” you feel the way you do. Give a detailed answer.

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2. What was your favorite part of the story? Use details please.

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3. Did you like the ending, or would you change it? If you would change it then why?

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While you read, it’s easy to forget what you’ve read or lose track of certain details over time. Keeping a record of answers to questions like the ones below can help you both better understand what you are reading and improve your memory of what you’ve already read. Answer as many of the following questions as you’d like, as often as you’d like, using whatever space you need. Even in reading and writing, practice makes perfect…

1. **Book Title:**

2. **Author:**

3. **Setting** (time, place & atmosphere in which a story occurs):

4. **Protagonist** (main character):

5. **Antagonist** (his/her adversary/opponent):

6. **Other Significant Characters**: (*What are they like? * What relationship brings them into the book? *How would things be different without them?)

7. **Epiphany** (moment when a big idea suddenly makes sense to a character):

8. **Climax** (point of greatest emotional intensity):

9. **Conflict(s)** (clash of opposing forces, interests or people) and its/their resolution:

10. **Symbols** (something that represents something or someone else):

11. **Themes** (broad message(s) of a story):

12. **Anything else** that caught your interest?

13. **Your questions** about anything in the book?