

Ready for 5th Grade - Summer Reading



The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Materials Needed:

- Purchase actual book The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster (bring 1st day of school)
- This information packet (pgs 1-3)
- Newspaper Activities (pgs 4-7) (attached below) (bring 1st day of school)
- Pencil, Colored Pencils/Markers to complete the Newspaper Activities

Dear Rising ELCA 5th Grade student,

It will be a wonderful year in 5th grade with YOU here at ELCA!!! This is just ONE book you will read over the summer. We encourage you to read some others as well. **On the first day of school, bring your The Phantom Tollbooth book and your completed summer reading packet.** This will be your first grade as a 5th grader, and we know you will work hard on this work! Your parents/guardians are there to help you, but NOT do the work for you. This is so your teachers here at ELCA can see how you can read and apply a book, not what your parents/guardians know. So, work as much alone as you can, but always discuss the book and talk about the silly things that Milo does with your family.

Dear ELCA Parents/Guardians,

Thanks for being there for your rising 5th grader! Here at ELCA, we are so thankful our students have the support they need at home to continue to be successful. Depending on your student, they may need help reading/understanding this book or completing activities. We encourage you to help them the minimum so they can grow and learn during this project. We recommend creating a reading plan that will work best for your student/family and reading the book over a few weeks. **They do need to have the actual book when they arrive in 5th grade on the first day of school (with their packet completed)**, so go ahead and purchase the actual book of The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Jester. They can even write in it, if that will help them.

We know that sometimes things over the summer like this “summer reading book” can seem a chore, but research has proven that students reading throughout the summer helps them retain what they have learned. Some fun ideas are below to increase the fun, if you want to do them. They are NOT required, but The Phantom Tollbooth is a great book to talk about as a family. There are silly things that we say like “Eat your words” and in the book, Milo actually has to eat the words that he says. Enjoy this time with your student. See the next 2 pages that may help your student with this novel.

See you in August!

About the Book - The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Jester

(Parents, these notes below are to help your understanding in case you aren't reading it with your student. This should help guide conversations and bring clarity and understanding. Let the students learn these things as they read.)

What does the word “Phantom” in the title mean?

The word phantom as it is used in the title (from dictionary.com) is an appearance or illusion without material substance, as a dream image, mirage, or optical illusion.

What does the word “Tollbooth” in the title mean?

Students may not know what a tollbooth is. Possibly they have passed through a real tollbooth especially if your family has traveled to parts of Florida. A tollbooth is just a place that you pay to drive on the roads.



What is the book about?

In the book, The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Jester, the tollbooth represents imagination. For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. He used a coin and also his imagination to pass through to the Lands Beyond - once he arrives, things seem different.

Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping) and as we say it "jumping to conclusions." He learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason. Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams!

The tollbooth, though, isn't intended to facilitate Milo's imagination forever - rather, it's a tool to teach him how to use his imagination and set himself up to be imaginative without a crutch. Milo learns that life is not dull and he can create fun for himself wherever he is, with whatever he has.

How does God's Word connect to this book?

God has created each one of us in His image and given us an imagination. This fictional story is a great example of being satisfied with what God has given us. God has given each of us an amazing family and God himself!

Below is an excerpt from Focus on the Family, “The Power of God-Given Imagination.”

“When imagination and excitement are mixed together, you will either not notice obstacles or they will be largely diminished—and, therefore, your courage will increase! This is important to remember as you pursue your God-given purpose.”





“If God has revealed His purpose for your life and you feel that it is more than you can achieve, consider the power and gift of your God-given imagination. Through it, God can make your purpose happen! Through imagination things are created.”

Read the remainder of this article online:

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/the-power-of-god-given-imagination/>

We want to encourage students to enjoy their imagination and use it to glorify God! Your student may love to draw, write, create, so remind them these are talents given by God. We will discuss this book and our God given imaginations in August as well as Milo’s adventures.

OPTIONAL Fun Activities (These activities are optional.)

-  **“Eat Your Words”** - find some soup or crackers with letters and eat your words like Milo had to do when he visited King Azaz. Think ABC soup or ABC Cereal or crackers for fun.
-  **“Synonym Buns”** - Eat a Cinnamon Bun or as they called it in the book “Synonym Bun” and discuss synonyms to words (words that mean the same thing. Dictionary.com is helpful.)
-  **Student can use their imagination to create a card** for someone special or a fun family activity.
-  **Lessons Learned** - Talk about the lessons that Milo learns from the different characters.
 - Life is not dull/boring. Milo learns this from all of his adventures.
 - Time is valuable.
 - Using the power of thought can achieve more than we realize.
 - Perspective can greatly affect what you see and understand.
 - Quote from the book:

“For instance, from here that looks like a bucket of water, but from an ant’s point of view it’s a vast ocean, from an elephant’s just a cool drink, and to a fish of course, it’s home. So, you see, the way you see things depends a great deal on where you look at them from.”

Summer Reading Packet

Due: First Day of School in August

Directions:

Below you will find the activities to complete and bring with their book on the 1st day of school in August. Document may be printed in black and white or color. Student grade will not be based on that. Use pencil, colored pencils/markers to neatly complete the activities to create your own The Phantom Tollbooth Newspaper. Student grade will be based on completion, creativity, accuracy of the answers, grade level appropriate grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. You are the student editor, so go ahead and **put your FULL NAME on page one** on the top Right. Looking forward to seeing you and what you create this summer on the first day of 5th grade! 😊

THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

ALL THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS FROM MILO AND HIS ADVENTURES



MILO'S DESTINATIONS

Choose 5 settings from the book (places Milo traveled) and write 1 in each shape below.

Five empty rounded rectangular boxes for writing destinations, each with a different colored border: light green, light green, light orange, light green, and light green.

Milo and _____ Visiting _____
(name of character) (name of place)

Choose one of the characters that Milo met in the book, then fill in the sentence above with this information. Draw a picture of Milo and that character in that setting from the book.

WHO DID MILO MEET

MILO WENT MANY PLACES AND MET MANY CHARACTERS.

Fill in the chart below with the details of a character Milo met (don't list Milo).

List the page number, where the character lived, and details about the character.

The first one has been done for you. They don't have to be in order of the book.

| Character Milo Met, pg # | Where Character Lived | Details about the Character |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| ① pg. 18 Whether Man | Land of Expectations | Says everything 3 times; so busy thinking about what could be true and why, that he never seems to go anywhere or get anything done |
| ② | | |
| ③ | | |
| ④ | | |
| ⑤ | | |
| ⑥ | | |



SUMMARY & REVIEW

JUST A LITTLE MORE INFO

SIMPLE SUMMARY

Fill in the blanks about The Phantom Tollbooth. Use the words below the blanks to help.



_____ by _____ is
(Title of the Book - make sure to underline it) (Author of the Book)

written in _____ person, and it is about a boy named _____
(What point of view is the story written in - 1st or 3rd?) (Main Character)

who _____ and into a land of
(How does the story begin?)

imagination where he _____
(What is the conflict/ what happens?)

(What is the resolution of the book?)

The Phantom Tollbooth Book Review

Color the stars below to rate the book. 1 star = didn't like it 5 stars = loved it



On the lines below, tell if you liked the book or not and why.



ALL ABOUT MILO & ME

GET TO KNOW THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER EDITOR

Milo
Write 3 things about Milo that are different than you.

① _____
② _____
③ _____

Milo & Me
Write 3 things about Milo and you that are the same.

① _____
② _____
③ _____

Me
Write 3 things about you that are different than Milo.

① _____
② _____
③ _____

My Favorite Character

Write about your favorite character from The Phantom Tollbooth on the lines below. Include why this character is your favorite and a quote this character says.

