**Language Arts Summer Assignment for Rising Fifth Graders**

It’s summer time! In the midst of their summer rest and relaxation, rising fifth grade students will have certain responsibilities to keep their skills sharp over the summer. Students will read *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls.

While reading *Where the Red Fern Grows,* students should keep a journal to accompany their reading. While reading, students should complete a minimum of six journal entries, but may write more entries if they desire. Below, I have included a number of relevant prompts, but please feel free to create your own as you are so inspired. I strongly suggest that the journal entries be completed throughout the summer, pacing your work to around one journal entry per week. Time management and organization of work are skills that we will prioritize in fifth grade, so this summer is a great time to start practicing! It may be helpful to set a specific day of the week as “Journal Day.” Write thoughtful, personal entries that make connections between the story and your own life or other stories you have read or heard. Rising fifth graders should spend about thirty minutes working on each entry. Bring your journal to school on the first day of class.

**Journal Prompts**

Choose one prompt for each entry. Prompts may only be used once but are not limited to this list.

* My favorite character is … because….
* Choose 3 characteristics to describe a character in the book. Use examples from the book to support your thoughts.
* I am most like (this character) because…
* If I could change any part of the book, I would change….
* I wish the author would have ……
* I was surprised when…. because…
* This part of the book made me think of a time in my life when….
* Choose one chapter to summarize in your own words.
* *Where the Red Fern Grows* is described as a “heartwarming tale.” Explain how this statement is true or false.
* Describe a time in your life that you worked hard to get something or accomplish something like Billy did.
* I liked/did not like the ending of the story because…
* I would/would not recommend this book to a friend because…

If you have any questions, please email me at [jgoodman@salisburyacademy.org](mailto:jgoodman@salisburyacademy.org) .