

Summer Reading Guide

Voices in the Air – Grade 6 going to Grade 7

Welcome, Future 7th Graders

This holiday, you are invited to continue your journey as readers in Middle School through a collection of poems and reflections that ask you to slow down, observe carefully, and think deeply about the world around you.

Reading this book is not just about understanding poems, it's about:

- Listening to different voices and perspectives
- Reflecting on identity, empathy, and humanity
- Paying attention to everyday moments
- Growing as a thoughtful and reflective reader

What is *Voices in the Air* about?

Voices in the Air is a collection of poems, reflections, and personal observations by poet Naomi Shihab Nye.

Through her writing, Nye explores:

- Family and memory
- Identity and belonging
- Kindness and empathy
- Culture and community
- The beauty of ordinary moments
- Human connection across differences

Her poems often begin with small, everyday experiences, but they invite readers to think about larger ideas and emotions.

Rather than telling one continuous story, this book offers many different “voices” and perspectives that encourage readers to pause, notice, and reflect.

What makes this book special?

Unlike a traditional novel, this book:






- Uses poetry and short reflections instead of chapters
- Encourages readers to think slowly and carefully
- Focuses on feelings, images, memories, and observations
- Invites multiple interpretations and personal connections

This means there is not always one “correct” answer. Instead, readers are encouraged to:

- Notice details
- Interpret meaning
- Reflect personally
- Connect ideas across texts and experiences

What Will You Learn From This Book?

As you read, you will explore important ideas like:

-  Identity and belonging
-  Empathy and human connection
-  Voice and perspective
-  Reflection and self-awareness
-  The importance of noticing everyday moments

- 🗨️ Leadership and community

And most importantly...

👉 You will learn how to:

- Read poetry thoughtfully and patiently
- Interpret figurative language and imagery
- Reflect on themes and emotions
- Develop your own ideas and responses as readers

🌐 Big Idea to Remember

👉 Great readers do not only read for information...

👉 They read to understand people, perspectives, emotions, and the world around them.

💡 Why this matters: This collection will help you continue developing interpretation skills and reflective thinking as you enter Grade 7.

🗨️ Final Message for Students

As you read, remember:

- Poems are meant to be explored slowly
- Different readers may understand a poem differently
- Small moments can carry powerful meaning
- Your voice and interpretation matter

🗨️ This book invites you not only to read words, but also to listen carefully to ideas, emotions, and experiences.

🎯 LED Learning Objectives for Summer Reading

By the end of this reading, LED teachers want you to:

1. 🔍 Analyze voice, imagery, and perspective through reading

- Pay attention to the language, images, and emotions the poet uses
- Identify how different poems communicate ideas and experiences
- Ask: *What is the speaker noticing, feeling, or trying to communicate?*

👉 This objective helps you become a reader who interprets meaning beyond literal words.

2. 💬 Develop interpretation and personal reflection through poetry

- Connect poems to your own experiences, emotions, and observations
- Reflect on themes such as identity, empathy, belonging, and humanity
- Ask: *Why might this moment or idea matter? What does this poem make me think about?*

👉 This objective helps you grow as a reader who reflects deeply and develops thoughtful interpretations.

3. 📖 Continue growing as an active, reflective, and independent reader

- Apply the reading strategies you have practiced throughout Basica
- Question, connect, visualize, interpret, and reflect while reading
- Engage with poetry not only to understand the text, but also to understand yourself and others

👉 This objective encourages you to continue building strong reading habits as you begin Grade 7 and continue your journey in LED.

🗨️ Why This Matters for Basica

In Grades 5 and 6, you practiced becoming more active and independent readers by:

- Asking questions
- Making connections
- Reflecting on characters and themes
- Developing interpretations







Now, *Voices in the Air* invites you to continue growing by:

- Reading more carefully and thoughtfully
- Exploring multiple meanings and perspectives
- Understanding how language creates emotion and meaning
- Using literature as a way to reflect on the human experience
- Developing leadership through thoughtful discussion, active listening, and meaningful collaboration

You are not just reading poetry...


✨ You are developing your voice as a thoughtful reader, thinker, and member of your community.

Reading Strategies to Help You Think More Deeply

 While you read...	 Strategy	 Try this...
What images or details stand out to you?	Notice & Visualize	 "I can picture..."
What emotions or ideas does the poem communicate?	Interpret & Reflect	 "This poem makes me think about..."
How does the poet use language to create meaning?	Analyze Language	✨ One word or image that felt powerful
How does the poem connect to real life or your experiences?	Connect & Apply	 One connection to yourself, others, or the world

Keep a Simple Reading Journal or Use Sticky Notes

During reading, take notes using these ideas and the strategies above:

- ☆ A line or image you liked
- ? A question or confusion
-  A connection or reflection
- ✨ A powerful word, image, or idea

Tips for Success

- Read slowly and thoughtfully
- Reread poems more than once
- Pause to think about images and emotions
- Annotate or underline meaningful lines
- Talk about poems with family or friends
- Remember: not all poems need to be understood immediately

Final Thought

Poetry teaches us to:

- Notice carefully
- Listen deeply
- Think reflectively
- Feel empathetically
- Understand the world in new ways

HOW TO READ POETRY

POEMS OFTEN REQUIRE CAREFUL READING. READING THEM AT LEAST **THREE TIMES** IS RECOMMENDED.

1ST READ

Read it aloud!
Read to enjoy!
Note the rhyme scheme (if any).
Note the poem's organization.
Pay attention to the rhythm.
Notice any words that are repeated.
Notice the images the words create.

3RD READ

Identify the theme of the poem.
Recognize how the poem's features - the rhyme, rhythm, figurative language, and organization - all contribute to your understanding of the theme the author is trying to present.

2ND READ

Note the story the poem seems to be telling.
Note the figurative language.
Think about the overall tone/mood of the poem.
Identify any big ideas that the poem presents.
Consider the effect of the organization, rhyme, and/or rhythm of the poem.

