

Quest Forward Middle School
2026 - 2027
7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Summer reading is designed to keep your mind active, improve your literacy skills, and prepare you for the upcoming school year. This assignment ensures you are ready to participate in class discussions, projects, and assessments from the first day of school.

Failure to read the assigned book and submit the corresponding project by the deadline of **Friday, August 14th, 2026** will result in a deduction of points towards the assignment grade.

Learning Objective: Students will read *Turning Fifteen on the Road to Freedom* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery and will write a detailed first-person journal entry from Lynda's perspective during a march, demonstrating understanding of historical context, character development, and emotional complexity through narrative writing.

Success Criteria:

- **Context:** Describe the setting, people, and purpose of the march.
- **Challenges:** Describe at least 2 specific obstacles and how Lynda responds.
- **Emotional Depth:** Show how emotions shift or develop (e.g., fear to hope).
- **Internal Thinking:** Include Lynda's inner voice, motivations, and doubts.
- **Reflection:** End with 2-3 sentences on what Lynda is learning.
- **Format:** 10-15 sentences, written in the first person ("I").

Part 1: Pre-Writing Brainstorm

Complete a pre-writing brainstorm by organizing your ideas about the march, Lynda's challenges, emotions, and key details before drafting your journal entry.

1. What sounds and sights surround Lynda? (Historical Context)

2. List two obstacles (physical or social) Lynda encounters.

3. What is Lynda thinking or feeling in this moment?

Part 2: Vocabulary Development

Select 6 unfamiliar or powerful words from your reading. For each word, provide the context from the book and demonstrate your understanding by creating a new sentence.

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Sentence from the Text	Your New Sentence

Part 3: Start Your Journal Entry

Use the following prompt to **help you get started with your journal entry**. You may use it as a guide or inspiration, but be sure to make the writing your own and continue developing your ideas.

Key Vocabulary Definitions

- **Solidarity:** Unity or agreement of feeling or action.
 - **Injustice:** Lack of fairness or justice.
- **Persistence:** Firm continuance in a course of action.
- **Disfranchisement:** The state of being deprived of a right or privilege.
- **Nonviolence:** Use of peaceful means to bring change.

Sentence Starters

- As I looked at the vast crowd...
- My feet ached from the pavement, but...
- I realized in that moment that...

Quick Tips:

- Use "I" and "me"
- Describe a specific tool or item from that time
- Mention two hard things you faced
- How do you feel inside?
- What are you thinking about?

Dear Journal,

Today, I am walking in the march, surrounded by _____. The air feels _____, and I can hear _____. We are marching because _____, and I know this matters because _____.

As we move forward, I begin to face challenges. One of the hardest moments is when _____. I feel _____, and I respond by _____. Another challenge comes when _____, which makes me feel _____. Even though this is difficult, I try to _____.

My emotions keep changing throughout the march. At first, I feel _____, but then I start to feel _____. This is because _____. Even when things feel overwhelming, something inside me keeps pushing me forward. I think to myself, “,” and I remind myself that _____.

I can't stop thinking about _____, and I wonder if _____.

What I hope will come from all of this is _____.

—Lynda

