

Summer Reading Letter - 2010

Dear Parents and Incoming 6th Graders,

We are looking forward to beginning the school year with a running start. Therefore, we are giving each middle school student in 6th, 7th, 8th grade a summer reading assignment, which will be followed up with discussion and a writing assessment during the first week of school.

Reading is a critical key to academic success and a tremendous amount of research suggests that students should be reading 4-5 days a week for at least an hour by the time they enter 6th grade. This includes reading throughout the summer!!! Reading improves content knowledge, promotes vocabulary acquisition, improves critical thinking skills and fosters well-crafted writing.

Throughout summer vacation, we urge you to read whatever interests you. However at some point we are asking each 6th grader to read either the Sharon Creech novel Bloomability or author Ben Mickaelsen's novel Countdown. These novels are available for you to purchase from most book stores or check with me, several have been donated from previous years. These books can also be found on tape at the library or through audiobooks.com.

Instead of completing a packet, which is still assigned for 7th and 8th grades, we are asking you to use sticky notes to mark three parts in the book where the main character, Dinnie or Elliott, struggles with a conflict (*internal- within themselves or external-no control because is brought to them by another character, society, or nature*). You may want to find a conflict in the beginning, the middle and the end of the story. We will look at the examples you give when we return to school and determine what theme they impact (family, independence, opportunity, change, friendship and/or something else). By carefully completing this assignment over the summer, you will be prepared to discuss the story in the fall and participate in an in-class writing assignment. Please bring your book with sticky notes to literature class the first week of school.

If you would like to get a jump start on the first novel for September we will be reading Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor. This is however an in-class novel and you will need to re-read it with the class. Also the first book report due in October is a choice of any genre you enjoy (150 pages or more). Most importantly this summer find literature you enjoy and allow yourself to relax with a good book.

Sincerely,

Sally Sue McDonald
Literature teacher 6th Grade

Meg Wolfe
Learning Resource Center Teacher