**READING LIST -- SUMMER**

**Incoming 8th Graders**

Today’s world offers far too many distractions to lure young people away from reading.  Yet, research has shown that students who continue reading during the summer are better prepared to begin school in the fall.  Therefore, I would like for each rising 8th grader to read **at least two books** (in addition to *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*) for pleasure over the summer.  Below you will find a list of suggested books, but feel free to read whatever interests you.

**REQUIRED**:  *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom.  Students must finish this novel by Tuesday, September 3rd.

**REQUIRED**: Read one additional novel of your choice and complete a reading response for the novel. Reading response choices are on the back of this sheet. Reading responses are due on or before Tuesday, September 3rd.

**REQUIRED**:  Memorize one poem of your choice (twelve lines or more) or memorize a section from a longer poem (twelve lines or more).  Be prepared to recite and analyze it in the fall. Avoid silly poems like Shel Silverstein as they are hard to analyze.

*Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes *Kid Docs* by Jenny Lynne

*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt

*Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer *Switch! The Kingdoms of Karibu* by Karen Prince

*Rocket Boys* by Homer H. Hickam, Jr. *Code Talker* by Joseph Bracha

*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer

*Fog a Dox* by Bruce Pascoe *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

*Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers *Knots in My Yo-yo-String* by Jerry Spinelli

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou *The Someday Birds* by Sally J. Pia

*Goodnight, Mr. Tom* by Michelle Magorian *The Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson

*Alanna: The First Adventure* by Tamora Pierce *Peak* by Roland Smith

*The Riddle of Arandella* by J.D. McBride *Battle of Jericho* by Sharon Draper

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

*The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*I love you, Michael Collins* by Lauren Baratz-Logsted *The Moves Make the Man* by Bruce Brooks

*Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe *No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman

*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner *Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli *Heat* (or other sports novels) by Mike Lupica

*Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay *Paperboy* by Vince Vawter

*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass

*Ghost* (or any in the track series) by Jason Reynolds

*In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer* by Irene Gut Opdyke

*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

*The Two Princesses of Bamarre* by Gail Carson Levine

**MENU OF READING RESPONSES**

Choose one of the reading responses below to complete after reading a novel of your choice.  Your reading response is due no later than Tuesday, September 3rd. All written responses should be a minimum of one page typed in 12 pt. font.

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| **WRITE A DIARY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ONE OF THE CHARACTERS:** Imagine you are the person in your book. Write diary entries (3-5) for a few days to a week as the character would have written the entries. | **WRITE A BOOK REVIEW OF THE BOOK:** Explain why you would (or wouldn’t) recommend the book to your peers and review/evaluate the book compared to other books of the same genre. | **THE WRITTEN WORD VERSUS THE VIDEO:** Compare the book to the movie or television version of it. What aspects of the book have been altered for the visual performance and why? Do these alterations make the story "better"? Why or why not? |
| **WRITE THE STORY FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW:** Take a part of the story and write a version as someone else would tell it. | **WRITE A TELEPHONE OR TEXT CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS:** Include an analysis of the conversation. | **SPONSOR A BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION ABOUT THE BOOK:** Document attendees, date and include an analysis of the discussion. |
| **WRITE A PARODY OF THE BOOK:** Parody a summary of the book or a relationship or a key event in the text. | **WRITE A POEM:** Write a poem about one of the characters or some event in the book.  (Minimum of twenty lines, five stanzas of four lines each) | **CREATE A MOSAIC OF QUOTES, THOUGHTS, IDEAS AND PICTURES ANALYZING KEY THEMES IN THE BOOK:** If the mosaic is too large, you may bring a picture of it to school. |
| **DESIGN THE FRONT PAGE OF A NEWSPAPER SET IN YOUR BOOK’S TIME PERIOD:** Write a short news story explaining the implications of a major event in your book. | **CREATE A DOUBLE ENTRY JOURNAL FOR THE BOOK**: Write text-based quotes on one side of the journal and write reflections and questions on the other side. | **CORRESPOND WITH ANOTHER CHARACTER:** Pretend that you are one character in the book. Write a letter to another character to express your appreciation, respect or disappointment. |
| **CONNECT THE BOOK TO A FAMILY EVENT:** Write a reflection about how your book is similar to a family event (i.e., wedding or reunion) or activity you did this year. | **GRADE YOUR CHARACTER:** Evaluate a character’s skills at reflecting and communicating. Assign a letter grade for each of those skills (and any additional skills you select). Use specific text examples to justify why you assign the character an A, B, C, D or F. | **PUT TOGETHER A CAST FOR THE FILM VERSION OF THE BOOK**: Decide which current actors and actresses would best play the roles. Include brief descriptions of the stars and tell why each is "perfect" for the part. |