

June, 2016

Dear Students and Parents,

The Sage Day English Department wants all students to continuously improve their appreciation and understanding of literature and informational texts. We strive to help our students become independent critical thinkers and thoughtful consumers of information.

**To that end, we are requiring students to read at least one grade-level appropriate book over the summer.**

*Grades 4-6 summer reading will be focusing on character and how to build strong character traits.*

**4-5 grade suggested summer reading suggestions:** *The View From Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg, *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster, *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (or anything in the *Fudge* series) by Judy Blume.

**6<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading suggestions:** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, or any book from the *Percy Jackson* book series by Rick Riordan

*7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be reading novels that center around dystopian societies as well as novels that reflect on the individual and society. Students will be identifying how the setting and plot affect characterization throughout the novel.*

**7<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading suggestions:** any book from the *Maze Runner* book series by James Dashner, *Life as We Knew It*, or anything from that series by Susan Beth Pfeffer, *Taking Sides* by Gary Soto, *The Misfits* by James Howe.

*8<sup>th</sup> grade students summer reading will be focusing on themes of social inequality and classism. Students will be identifying how these themes affect the characters as well as themselves.*

**8<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading suggestions:** Anything from the Hunger Games book series by Suzanne Collins, The Diary of Anne Frank by Anne Frank, Number the Stars by Lois Lowry, and The Book Thief by Markus Zusak.

**Each student is strongly encouraged to select a book that he or she will find interesting and enjoyable to read. If a student prefers not to choose his or her own book, he or she may select a book from the attached list of suggested books.**

Following the reading experience, students should be able to\*:

- Identify the essential conflict(s) of the book.
- Identify the main characters and their attributes.
- Identify the changes the main characters go through over the course of the book.
- Identify the importance of settings (time and place). Note any setting shifts.
- Be able to summarize the plot or sequence of events of the book.
- Identify the essential theme(s) of the book.

There is no writing required over the summer; however, by September 8, students will begin to identify, discuss, and write about the about elements of literature found in their summer reading material.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact  
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Thank you,

Sage Day English Department