



Dear Rising 6th Grade Students and Parents:

As you immerse yourselves in varied activities this summer—camps, athletic competitions, community service efforts, and more—my fondest wish is that you will tuck a book under your arms as you go. Reading allows you to gather knowledge, gain empathy, think critically about the world, and derive pleasure from the printed word. S.I. Hayakawa observes that, “It is not true that we have only one life to live; if we can read, we can live as many more lives and as many kinds of lives as we wish.”

Each rising 6th grader is required to read **ONE** fantasy book of their choice. A suggested list is included but the you may also research a book on your own. Students will then choose one assignment that will be due on the first day of school. The written assignment is designed to check your understanding of the book. The response should be at least one page, typed, font 12 and double spaced in MLA format.

All English classes will begin the year with discussions, activities, and writing assignments based on the summer reading. I suggest that students thoroughly review the required book they read toward the end of the summer. In addition, all students must complete **one** of the two assignment types (see next page) to enhance their understanding of their free choice book.

Free Choice Writing Assignments for the Summer of 2016

Choose one:

1. You are an English teacher. After reading your free choice book, you must decide if you should teach this book in your class during the school year. Would it be a strong addition to your curriculum? Why? What do the characters learn that would provide lessons to your students? What activities would you do to make reading this book a positive experience for your class? Offer specific details from the book as you give reasons to include it in your curriculum, keep it listed as a summer reading option, or disregard it. Write at least one full double-spaced page.

2. You are a journalist. Write up a magazine interview with a character from your book. As the interviewer, you might choose to start by asking your character some background questions such as name, age, occupation, and childhood incidents that are depicted in the plot. Formulate interesting questions that cannot be answered with a simple yes or no reply. For example, a) Tell a little about your views on... b) How did you feel when...happened? c) Why did you choose to.... instead of...? When you write the interview, format the questions in bold text and the responses in plain text. All questions and answers must be complete sentences. Write at least one full double-spaced page

Science Fiction/Fantasy Suggested List

Artemis Fowl by Colfer
City of Ember by Duprau
People of Sparks by Duprau
Redwall (any in series), Jacques
Eragon by Paolini
The Lightning Thief (any in series), Riordan
Tesla's Attic – Neal Shusterman
The Menagerie by Tui T. Sutherland
Unwanted by Lisa McMann • Outlaws of Time
The Legend of Sam Miracle by N.D. Wilson
The School for Good and Evil by Soman Chainan
Wings of Fire by Tui T. Sutherland
The Gauntlet by Karuna Riazi