

May, 2008

Dear Incoming Sixth Grade Parents and Students:

Welcome to Seabury Hall from your sixth grade English teacher! This summer, the very best way to prepare for the exciting opportunities and challenges ahead is to READ! Seabury Hall is committed to the habit of reading: it creates academic success--and opens exciting new worlds as well! All you need to do is read THREE books--one chosen from the list on the reverse side of this letter, plus two more of your choice. Your free-choice picks may be fiction or nonfiction by any author, as long as they meet the following guidelines:

- * Your books should each be **about** 200 pages long.
- * Your books should be at a middle school--not elementary--level of difficulty.
- * Please choose books that you have never read before.

Here's what you need to do with your books:

1. Please do not write book reports.
2. Please do keep a list of your three titles and authors.
3. From each of your three books, choose 2 short (one to five sentences) passages that you think are GREAT WRITING. They might be passages that:
 - * pull you right into the book, so that you see, feel, & hear the story world;
 - * give you an insight into a character, yourself, or life;
 - * connect with you and your own experience, by reminding you of something you have seen, thought, done, or felt.

Type or neatly handwrite your six GREAT WRITING passages, including book title & author, and bring them to class on the first day!

Have a terrific summer--and have fun choosing and reading your books! I'll see you in August. We're going to have a great year!

Sincerely,
Gayle Martelles, English 6



A SPECIAL NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT READ the following titles:

- [Freak the Mighty](#) by Philbrick
- [Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry](#) by Taylor
- [The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles](#) by Edwards
- [And Then There Were None](#) by Christie
- [The Outsiders](#) by Hinton
- [The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen](#) by Alexander

We may be using these books in class, so if you have not yet read them, please wait so we can experience them together. (THANK YOU! THANK YOU!)

6th Grade Summer Reading Suggestion List

Please make at least 1 selection from this list, plus 2 of your own picks--either from the list or your own choice. Be sure to choose books you have not read before!

Classics:

Any unabridged classic, e.g., Robin Hood, Treasure Island

Realistic fiction:

Chasing Redbird, Heartbeat, or any title by Sharon Creech

Hoot, Flush, or any title by Carl Hiassen

Hatchet or any title by Gary Paulsen

Holes or Small Steps by Louis Sachar

Crash or Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

Bud, Not Buddy or any title by Christopher Paul Curtis

Historical fiction:

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Bull Run by Sid Fleischman

Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Night of the Howling Dogs, Under the Blood Red Sun, or any title by Graham Salisbury

Science Fiction:

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Interstellar Pig by William Sleator

Fantasy:

Perloo the Bold by Avi

Chronicles of Narnia (any title) by C. S. Lewis

Measle and the Wrathmonk by Ian Ogilvy

Eragon, Eldest, or another title by Chris Paolini

The City of Ember or another title by Jeanne Duprau

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Wow !

What a cool list !!!

Have fun !!!