



May 16, 2008

Dear Seabury Hall 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School students and parents,

Hello and welcome to summer! Summer represents freedom and exploration and lightheartedness. I am grateful for the opportunity to embrace all three and hope that you grow this season with adventures and books.

During your middle grade education at Seabury Hall, our summer break should be a time of avid reading determined by you. Books that were discovered throughout the school year, yet were set aside to honor other commitments can now be dusted off and relished. I hope summer is filled with consistent, recreational reading, for the language arts are skills and require consistent practice for development and sustainment. Thus, I ask that you read three books this summer in preparation for school next fall: one book will be assigned by grade level, one from the list on the back, and one from the list or another source. Please choose only books that you have not yet read.

While reading the books, please take notes and gather information that will allow you to answer the following questions in a short, **typed** document.

1. What is the reason the author chose to create this book for the world, or what is the author offering readers in his or her book? Simply, why did they create the book?—don't over-think this one!
2. What are the top three parts or aspects of the book that you found interesting, important or enlightening? Your answer could focus on characters, plot events, historical information, themes or other qualities of the book.
3. Why would you recommend or not recommend this book to another teen? Support your recommendation with three reasons.

Please write a paragraph (10-16 sentences) with the above information for each book. Before each paragraph, **please write the title, author and number of pages in the book**. Put your name in the upper left corner. Limit your paragraphs to the required amount and plan to turn the assignment in on August 25<sup>th</sup>—the first Monday of the school year. Remember to indent your paragraphs and include a topic sentence!

Please contact me via email if you have any questions this summer about books or this letter—I will be slow to reply in late June and July. Also, please start your reading in June, waiting until August and then gulping down three books is poor for digestion and does not serve the purpose of summer reading. Thanks for reading.

Happiness,

Todd Wilson  
twilson@seaburyhall.org

# American & World Classics

Alcott, Louisa May. *Little Women*.  
Bagnold, Enid. *National Velvet*.  
Christopher, John. *The White Mountains*•  
Cleaver, Vera. *Where the Lilies Bloom*  
Collier, James and Christopher. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*  
Cooper, James Fenimore. *The Last of the Mohicans*  
Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*  
Dickens, Charles. *A Christmas Carol*  
Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*  
Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*  
Dumas, Alexander. *The Count of Monte Cristo*  
Eckert, Allan W. *Incident At Hawk's Hill*  
Engdahl, Sylvia. *Enchantress From the Stars*  
Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*  
Frank, Anne. *Diary of a Young Girl*  
•George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*  
Hamilton, Virginia. *M.C. Higgins the Great*  
Hautzig, Esther. *The Endless Steppe*  
Hilton, James. *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*  
Hugo, Victor. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* ←  
Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*  
Hunter, Mollie. *A Stranger Came Ashore*  
Keith, Harold. *Rifles for Watie*  
•Keller, Helen. *Story of My Life*  
Kipling, Rudyard. *Kim*  
LeGuin, Ursula K. *A Wizard of Earthsea*  
L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*  
London, Jack. *Call of the Wild*  
Malory, Sir Thomas. *Le Morte d'Arthur*  
Mazer, Harry. *The Last Mission*  
McCaffrey, Anne. *Dragonsong*  
O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*  
Paterson, Katherine. *Jacob Have I Loved*•  
Peck, Richard. *The Ghost Belonged To Me*•  
Peck, Robert Newton. *A Day No Pigs Would Die*  
Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. *The Yearling*•  
Wilson, Where the Red Fern Grows•  
Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room*•  
Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de. *The Little Prince*  
Schaefer, Jack. *Shane*  
Scott, Sir Walter. *Ivanhoe*•  
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*•  
Smith, Betty. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*  
Sperry, Armstrong. *Call It Courage*  
Steinbeck, John. *The Red Pony*•  
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island*•  
Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*  
Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*  
Twain, Mark. *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*  
Uchida, Yoshiko. *Journey to Topaz*  
Verne, Jules. *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*  
Webster, Jean. *Daddy Long Legs*  
Wells, H.G. *War of the Worlds*  
Wilder, Thornton. *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*  
Yates, Elizabeth. *Amos Fortune, Free Man*.  
Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings*

## Summer Reading Requirements:

1.

Please select one book from this list.

2.

Please read the assigned book for your grade level:

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

*Dare to Dream!*  
Sandra McLeod Humphrey  
ISBN-10: 0071449043

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

*Bud, Not Buddy*,  
Christopher Paul Curtis  
ISBN-10: 043940200X

3.

Choose a third book that interests you.

Complete the assigned paragraph summary for each book.