

May 2020

Dear Incoming Grade 6 Parent,

With the school year coming to an end, it is time to think about summer reading! As a department, we firmly believe that a strong reading-based curriculum helps students to build vocabulary, grammatical awareness, and writing skills. As such, we have designed a new and exciting summer reading program to encourage students to read!

Due to Covid-19 summer reading is highly recommended, but not required; written assignments will not be due the first week of school.

Each grade level has 2 specific required reading titles.

Grade 6:

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi (ISBN: 978-0786816583)

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (ISBN: 978-0439120425)

All students must read the two books for the grade level they are entering. Additionally, students must bring a copy of both books (personal copy or from the library) to school for the first two weeks, as these books will be discussed in class, and students will be tested on them.

In addition to the two required titles, every middle school student is required to read at least *five* additional books. Students are asked to record each book's title, author, and number of pages, as well as the date reading was completed, and a parent's signature to affirm that the student has read the book. These five books must be chapter books. Students must read these books during the summer. Books read during the school year either in class or for pleasure are not acceptable. Books must be in English. Books may be fiction or nonfiction, but they should challenge the student either in content or vocabulary. A link to the list of acceptable titles and authors can be found at the bottom of the reading log page. This is a partial list of acceptable books, and students are encouraged to look beyond this list in their local library or bookstore. If there is a question about a specific book's acceptability, students may email an English teacher to ask for approval. Please be aware that if a student logs books that are not considered acceptable by his or her English teacher, the student will be required to read additional books during the first two weeks of the school year and will receive a reduced score on the summer reading assignment.

Please **refrain** from reading the following books as these will be read during the school year either in 6th or 7th grade: "*Where the Red Fern Grows*", "*Wonder*", "*To Kill a Mocking Bird*", "*Hatchet*", and "*Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*".

If a student reads beyond the required seven books, prizes are awarded at various Levels to encourage additional reading! At 10 total books or more, the student receives a reading achievement certificate. Attached to this letter is the first page of the summer reading log!

Have a wonderful summer, and happy reading!

Sincerely,

The Cornerstone Academy Middle School English Department