

Summer Reading for Rising 8th Graders

Students are required to read four (4) books over the summer and be prepared to discuss them on the first day of school, August 25, 2009.

ENGLISH (two required books) - Choose two from the following list:

***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor**

***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, by John Boyne**

***Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata**

***Heat* by Mike Lupica**

***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**

***The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton**

***The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Elizabeth George Speare**

Assignment: While reading these books, consider the themes of prejudice, bias, and indifference. On one 4 x 6 note card (front & back), record information regarding the novel's main character(s), setting, and significant events. Consider the themes mentioned above. You may refer to this note card when composing a brief essay in class. Be prepared to share your thoughts and discuss your book in terms of the themes mentioned above.

HISTORY – Choose one from the following list:

***The Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez**

***Crossing the Wire* by Will Hobbs**

***The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk About the Civil War* by Jim Murphy**

You do not need to turn in a written assignment. You will need to be able to participate in a discussion about your book. Be prepared to share your thoughts and ideas regarding the content and themes.

SCIENCE – Choose one from the following list:

***Jaguar* by Roland Smith**

***Scat* by Carl Hiaasen (*available in hardcover only*)**

***House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer**

Return to school prepared to discuss the book you read and participate in a group activity. Enjoy reading!