

June 2019

Dear Incoming 7th Grader,

Hello! It was wonderful meeting with you during your visit to the Middle School!

Summer is a fabulous time to read! My own “bedside table list” is getting longer with each suggestion I receive from my current 7th graders. I can’t wait to hear about some new recommendations from you in September.

To prepare for your start in middle school, you should read from diverse genres such as fiction, nonfiction, historical, fantasy, and biographical books, as well as from magazines and newspapers. Read every day! Come August, you should begin to prepare for English class by selecting at least one book to complete before the first day of school. Select from novels with characters or situations to which you can relate within a genre you enjoy. Choose your book carefully! It should be the length and difficulty that suits your independent reading level. You need to find a book that is exciting and engaging. If the first book you try does not suit you, look again!

In the fall **when you return to school**, you will write an **in-class** persuasive letter to your classmates that states your opinion about why you would or would not recommend your book. You will give at least three convincing reasons to back up your opinion. You will use one specific example from the story to support each reason. In addition to your written recommendation, you will also need to be prepared to respond orally to the following:

- Title and author of your book
- Setting, characters, and main events of the story
- Techniques that the author uses to hook you into the reading
- Your personal connections to the story

In class, I will ask you to write an organized persuasive letter that demonstrates your best writing skills, including complete sentences, correct grammar, and proper mechanics. This letter will help me to measure your reading comprehension and writing skills. It will also be used as a baseline measurement for growth throughout seventh grade.

To help guide your reading and act as an outline for your writing, I have enclosed a graphic organizer for you to complete **before school begins**. You should **bring your graphic organizer and independent reading book to your language arts class on the first day of school**.

Have a relaxing and safe summer! Enjoy your reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Smith

Summer Reading Outline

Title:

Author:

Setting:

Brief description of main characters:

Plot (main events of the story):

Explain at least two (2) personal connections to the story:

Explain at least three (3) examples of techniques the author uses to keep you interested in the book such as: description, cliff hangers, relatable characters, humor, word choice, etc. (include a quote with page numbers):

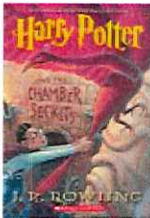
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List three reasons you would or would not recommend your book:

Mrs. Smith's Suggested Summer Reads



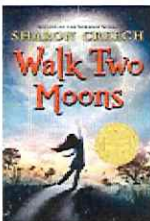
Harry Potter Series - J.K. Rowling



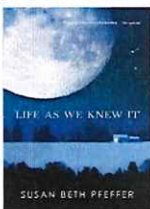
Percy Jackson & the Olympians series - Rick Riordan



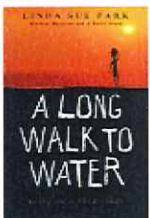
Peak - Roland Smith



Walk Two Moons - Sharon Creech



Life as We Knew It - Susan Beth Pfeffer



A Long Walk to Water - Linda Sue Park



Out of My Mind - Sharon M. Draper



Tangerine - Edward Bloor



When You Reach Me - Rebecca Stead



Freak the Mighty - Rodman Philbrick



The Running Dream - Wendelin VanDraanen



So B. It - Sarah Weeks



Fish in a Tree - Lynda Mullaly Hunt