Dear Students,

In keeping with our hope at GCA that all students will become life-long readers and learners, we require you to read two books for our summer reading program. The summer reading assignment was created to encourage you to become recreational readers, discovering how enriching and entertaining reading can be. We hope that through reading you will learn more about yourself and others.

**Book 1: Required Reading:** All eighth-grade students are required to **choose one** of the following books to read and complete the newsletter project (see attached – you may use any newspaper template as long as you include the required reader’s response elements found in the original template) by Thursday, August 8th. The project for the required reading and choice reading will count together as one test grade. You can also expect a comprehension quiz over the content of the book you choose.

**The Young Traveler’s Gift**

*by Andy Andrews*

Michael Holder began his journey as the last young traveler to receive the unique gifts of wisdom offered by historical greats. In his senior year of high school, Michael hit rock bottom. After being caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, he was suspended from the track team and lost his college scholarship. His coach was angry and his parents disappointed. He was diving headfirst into a downward spiral. Facing the bleak future ahead, he saw no way out and wondered if life was really worth living. But now, with some divine intervention, he’s been given a second chance and offered a once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery.

**Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life and Maybe the World**

*by Admiral William H. McRaven*

On May 17, 2014, Admiral William H. McRaven addressed the graduating class of the University of Texas at Austin on their Commencement day. Taking inspiration from the university’s slogan, "What starts here changes the world," he shared the ten principles he learned during Navy Seal training that helped him overcome challenges not only in his training and long Naval career, but also throughout his life; and he explained how anyone can use these basic lessons to change themselves-and the world-for the better.

Building on the core tenets laid out in his speech, McRaven now recounts tales from his own life and from those of people he encountered during his military service who dealt with hardship and made tough decisions with determination, compassion, honor, and courage.
**Book 2:** This is your chance to choose what you read, so pick something that you find interesting! You can choose a fictional novel, a nonfiction book, or a biography. Please choose something that is appropriate for your reading level and our school. Do NOT choose a book that you have already read. After completing the book, complete the book jacket project described below. This project is also due by Thursday, August 8th.

**Mini project: Book Jacket** (This project can be done digitally or by hand)

1. Fold a sheet of paper like it’s a hard cover book jacket
2. On the cover create/include an illustration that will describe the story.
3. On the inside flap write a description of the main character.
4. On the inside back flap write a description of the central problem/conflict.
5. On the back cover create a written book talk to persuade someone to read the story.

Please feel free to email Mrs. Cross at caroline.cross@gcarams.org if you have any questions.

Happy reading!
LEAD STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit over 150 words.

The Young Traveler’s Gift:
Write an article about Michael’s arrest and accident, or about one of the famous characters in the story from Michael’s point of view. Describe his encounter with them and the lesson he learned.

OR

Make Your Bed:
Choose one of the stories Admiral McRaven tells in the book. Write a news article pretending you were a reporter witnessing the event.

ON A SIDE NOTE:

In this column describe a setting from the book. Provide evidence from the text to reinforce your description.

GENRE

Identify the genre of the book and provide three characteristics from the book that support your choice of the genre. In other words, what characteristics make this book belong to this genre? Be very specific.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

The Young Traveler’s Gift:
List three of the 7 decisions that you found the most impactful

OR

Make Your Bed:
List three of the 10 principles that you found the most impactful

SECONDARY STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 100-125 words. In this column please show what you know about the author of the book through a mock interview. Create 3-5 insightful questions that you could ask the author about his creative process, his career, and this book. Based on your research about the author, write the answers to your questions. Your answers should provide specific details from the author’s life. It should look like this:

Q.: What inspired you to write?
A.: Detailed answer with specific examples goes here.

Q.: 
A.: 

Please remember to create an original, meaningful headline for your interview.

Include the author’s photo
Inside Story Headline

The Young Traveler’s Gift:
Choose one of the seven decisions Michael encounters that you believe applies most to your life. Write an article describing the decision, how Michael obtained this wisdom and why it would apply most to your life.

OR

Make Your Bed:
Choose one of the ten principles Admiral McRaven highlights that you believe applies most to your life. Write an article describing the principle, how Admiral McRaven learned the lesson, and why it would apply most to your life.

BACK PAGE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit up to 125 words.

Back page stories usually include editorials where writers have freedom to express their opinion on a variety of issues. Write your own editorial on this book. What did you like and dislike about the book. Would you recommend this book to your best friend? Why?

Remember to create an original headline for each of your stories.

“To catch the reader’s attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the book here.”