

May 8, 2020

Dear Parents of Rising Eighth Grade Students:

I am hopeful that we are heading into a phase of the recent pandemic in which the boys—and indeed all of us—will have the opportunity to head out of our houses into the world of fresh air and nature. However, whether your sons are indoors, in a treehouse or at a campsite, I hope they will still engage in some reading, and I really hope I will be meeting them all in person in the classroom this August.

I would like for the boys to read at least two books from the attached list during summer vacation. They must read Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* and at least one other book. Additional books read beyond those two will earn the boys medals and bonus credit in Literature during the first grading period in the fall. The students may read as many books from the list as they wish. Any novel read should be listed on a summer reading form, along with the necessary dates and your signature. Naturally, if a student has read a book from the list prior to summer vacation, that work should not be included on the form.

Note: four books will earn a bronze medal, five will earn a silver medal and six will earn a gold medal. In each of these instances, of course, *Old Man and the Sea* must be one of the books, as it will provide a springboard for discussion and writing during the opening weeks of school. I would suggest that the boys not read the novel too early in the summer, so that they will be able to remember the work with clarity. I also encourage them to annotate and write notes in the margins.

Sincerely,

Brendan Moore

## Eighth Grade Summer Reading List 2020

All eighth grade students must read Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* (Simon and Schuster – ISBN # 978-0-684-80122-3). This book will form the basis of our initial studies and writing in the first weeks of school. Students should also read at least one other book from the following list:

Adams, Richard - *Watership Down*  
Alexander, Kwame – *The Crossover*  
Bellairs, John - *The House with a Clock in its Walls*  
Blackwood, Gary - *The Shakespeare Stealer*  
Card, Orson Scott – *Ender's Game*  
Christie, Agatha - *Murder is Announced*  
Cooper, James Fenimore - *The Last of the Mohicans*  
Cooper, Susan - *The Dark is Rising*  
Cormier, Robert - *I Am the Cheese*  
Cormier, Robert – *Beyond the Chocolate War*  
Dickens, Charles - *The Old Curiosity Shop*  
Earley, Tony - *Jim the Boy*  
Fitzgerald, F. Scott - *The Great Gatsby*  
Funke, Cornelia - *The Thief Lord*  
Hesse, Karen - *Stowaway*  
Hinton, S.E – *The Outsiders*  
Hobbs, Will – *The Big Wander*  
Hobbs, Will – *Jason's Gold*  
Hunt, Irene - *No Promises in the Wind*  
Jacques, Brian – *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman*  
Lipsyte, Robert - *The Brave*  
London, Jack - *Call of the Wild*  
London, Jack - *White Fang*  
Orwell, George - *1984*  
Paton, Alan - *Cry the Beloved Country*  
Pyle, Howard - *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*  
Salinger, J.D - *Catcher in the Rye*  
Speare, Elizabeth George – *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*  
Spinelli, Jerry - *Loser*  
Steinbeck, John - *Of Mice and Men*  
Steinbeck, John - *The Grapes of Wrath*  
Swift, Jonathan - *Gulliver's Travels*  
Tolkein, J.R.R – *The Fellowship of the Ring*  
Verne, Jules - *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*  
Verne, Jules - *Around the World in Eighty Days*  
Wiesel, Elie - *Night*  
Wilder, Thornton - *Our Town*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading Form 2020**

Create an expandable table in which you respond to the fiction you have read. You must type your responses, using Arial 12. Your comments (150-300 words) should be thoughtful and even insightful! Try to avoid merely telling me what happened in the book. For example, what was your reaction to key scenes or characters? What personal memories were evoked for you when you read the novel? What other works (books, short stories, operas, movies, paintings etc.) did the novel remind you of and why? Could you identify the central theme(s) of the work? In other words, evaluate the book, being sure to explain your opinion.

<b>Title of Book &amp; Date Completed</b>	<b>Comments on the Novel.</b>
(Remember that novel titles are always underlined or italicized!)	

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_