Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

1. Read the book *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson. You may order the book from a bookseller or check the book out of the library. There are also a limited number of copies available in the front office

2. As you read, take informal notes that address the following:

- Who are the main characters?
- What are the main conflicts, or problems, that the characters face?
- What are the most significant events that happen?
- What is the book's setting (time and place)?
- What takes place in the book's climax?
- How does the author create suspense for the reader?
- What is the book's theme—that is, what is it trying to teach us about life?
- Write down any questions about the book that you may have

Be sure to bring your notes and questions to class during the first week of school. Also bring a copy of the book. These will be used for class discussion and to help you with an in-class assessment.

3. When you come back to school in August, you will be given a test on the book. The test will count as your first major grade in English class, so be sure to read the book carefully.

4. In addition to *Old Yeller*, read as many books as possible. As Sir Richard Steele said, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."