



Summer Reading and Writing Assignments

Dear 7th graders,

This summer, your required reading is Claire Keegan's novel *Foster*, the story of a child who is taken by her father to live with relatives on a farm, not knowing when or if she will be return home again. On the farm, she finds an affection and warmth that give her a sense of belonging that she has not experienced before. But there is also a secret in this new household that must be confronted before the summer ends. This book will be your first text in English class next year, so make sure to read it and bring it to class in August.

In addition to *Foster*, you are expected to read one novel from the list below and to do some writing of your own.

Required: *Foster* by Claire Keegan

Choice: Choose at least one from this list:

- *The Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
- *The Alchemist* by Paul Coehlo
- *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From* by Jennifer De Leon
- *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kwamkamba
- *Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- *I, Robot* by Isaac Asimov
- *The Martian Chronicles* by Ray Bradbury

Over the summer, to keep your writing skills sharp, we would like you to keep a handwritten **journal of at least seven entries** using these prompts **or any other** of your own. Use good, specific details. You can **fictionalize** your entries if you like - pretend to be someone else and write in their voice. You could write in the form of **poetry, song lyrics or drama** as well. Be honest, be descriptive, be creative. Please plan on using one of these entries to read to the class and workshop (get feedback and revise) at the start of the school year.

1. Write a journal entry about the events and experiences of your day. What occurred, how did you spend your time, what did you think about, work on, or learn?
2. Return to a poem, story, or essay you've written, and revise it into a new draft.
3. Write about a book you read this summer. What did it teach you? What were the skillful techniques the author used to make their story work? What did it make you think about?
4. Write about a time you said or did something that you now regret. Why'd you do it? What did you learn?
5. Write about a time that someone said something to you that hurt you. How did you recover? What did it teach you?
6. Write about something that you're passionate about or proud of. What are your favorite things to do, or your best accomplishments so far?
7. Write a review of a movie, show, or book. What are its strengths, and what are its weaknesses?
8. Write a story inspired by a recent dream that you had.
9. Make up something scandalous about your brother, or sibling, or someone you know. Make it so crazy that everyone will know it **can't** be true.
10. On vacation, **record** new sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and tactile sensations (from the sense of touch: what does a wave feel like when it crashes against your skin?). Or, give yourself a mini-vacation by going to a new place to write, and let yourself be inspired by recording what you notice there.
11. Write about a time you kept a secret from someone else, or someone else kept a secret from you.
12. Write a story or journal entry about a photograph you have in your house. Use details from the photograph. If you can, tape your photograph into your journal. You may also draw the photograph!
13. Interview a person in your life. Write a transcription of your interview. Try to ask them questions you do not already know the answer to! Learn something new about them.
14. Imagine you find a time traveling machine. Describe how you use it. Where do you go? What happens?

Wishing you a healthy and happy summer and looking forward to seeing you in the new school year,

Daniel Bush

English Department Chair