THE ALTAMONT SCHOOL

SUMMER READING LIST – 5th Grades

Hello upcoming 5th Graders, and Happy Summer! My name is Ms. Huffman, and I am looking forward to working with you in English next year.

This summer, you should play, relax, explore, and try something new—but most of all, read! Reading opens new worlds, transports our minds, and helps us make meaningful connections.

As part of our English journey, we will begin the year having read five books. Your summer reading includes an author study, required reading, and choice reading. Please review the Summer Reading Assignment below carefully. We will begin the year by discussing the required books during the first two weeks of school.

I strongly encourage you to read with a pencil in hand. Mark passages, words, or moments that you find interesting, strange, confusing, or especially meaningful. Those of you who know me know that I LOVE annotations! For those who are new, annotations will help you remember what you read and give you great talking points as we begin our discussions together.

Feel free to use audiobooks as you read, but please keep in mind that the purpose of summer reading is to maintain and strengthen your reading skills over the break. Listening can be helpful support, but students should always follow along in the text while using an audiobook to ensure they are actively engaging with the material.

Note: Kerry Madden-Lunsford, a local author, will be visiting with Middle School students in October to share her book *Werewolf Hamlet*, which is included on the curated choice list.

Here is the 5th grade link: https://canva.link/ev6d2h2j7nzldt7

Required: Everyone reads *Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan. After reading the required book, c**reate 3 discussion questions** that you would want to share with the class during the first week of school. Add the answers YOU think would best answer the questions.

Save me a Seat by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

EXAMPLE:

Book: *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

1. Question: How does Esperanza change from the beginning of the book to the end?
Answer: At the beginning, Esperanza is wealthy and does not know how to do basic tasks for herself. She is used to being taken care of. By the end of the book, she has learned to work hard, take care of her family, and be more understanding of others. She becomes stronger and more independent.

2. Question: What is one major challenge Esperanza faces, and how does she respond to it?
Answer: One major challenge is when Esperanza and her mother have to leave Mexico and move to California after her father dies. At first, Esperanza struggles with the new lifestyle and working in the fields, but she learns to adapt, work hard, and stay hopeful even when things are difficult.

3. Question: What is the main theme of the book, and how do you know?
Answer: A main theme of the book is resilience and perseverance. Esperanza faces many hardships, including losing her home, adjusting to a new country, and dealing with her mother's illness. Even though life becomes very difficult, she keeps going and learns how to overcome challenges.

Required Author Study: Choose 2 books by author, **Rebecca Stead**, to read. Be prepared to discuss the author's style when we return to school. Just like an artist, authors use word choice, sentence structure, chapter titles, literary devices-like imagery and symbolism, tone-like attitude or mood, character styles, themes to create their own style. What do you notice about this author's style after reading 2 books? **Create a list of 5 things you think make this author special.**

Books by Rebecca Stead:

When You Reach Me (fan fav)

The Experiment

The Lost Library

Liar and Spy

First Light

EXAMPLE: Here are 5 reasons why Rick Riordan is a great writer:

- **Relatable, funny voice – His characters, like Percy Jackson, sound real and humorous, making readers feel connected.**
- **Mixes mythology with modern life – He brings ancient myths into today's world in a fun and engaging way.**
- **Fast-paced plots – His stories are full of action and adventure that keep readers hooked.**
- **Strong themes – He explores friendship, identity, and bravery in ways kids understand.**
- **Diverse characters – He includes characters with different backgrounds and abilities so many readers can see themselves in his books.**

Choice Book List: Choose 1 book from the curated list below. Using your best handwriting, **write a paragraph** (about 5 sentences) describing which character(s) in your book would be the **HERO** and why. Be sure to include title and author.

EXAMPLE: In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling, the hero of the story is Harry Potter because he shows bravery, loyalty, and a strong sense of right and wrong. Even though he is young and new to the wizarding world, Harry is willing to face danger to protect others. He risks his life to stop Lord Voldemort from stealing the Sorcerer's Stone, showing true courage. Harry also depends on his friends and values teamwork. Overall, Harry proves that being a hero is not about being perfect, but about making brave choices when it matters most.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

The Adventures of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Lincoln's Grave Robbers by Steve Sheinkin

Double Identity by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk

Ferris by Kate DiCamillo

Pocket Bear by Katherine Applegate

The Watsons Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

The Red Pyramid by Rick Riordan

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

New From Here by Kelly Yang

Outside by Jennifer Holm

Wonder by Patricia Palacio

Alone by Megan E. Freeman

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Werewolf Hamlet by Kerry Madden-Lunsford