

To Parents and Students:

I expect that everyone is ready for summer and looking forward to next year. I hope that you are excited as I am to embark on this exciting journey together. Below you will find the reading list for summer 2011, as well as the reading analysis to download. Entering seventh graders are required to read *First Crossings: Stories of Teen Immigrants*, edited by Donald Gallo, before beginning school this fall. This book of short stories will prepare the student to discuss the themes of immigration and perception that will be addressed in the seventh grade humanities course. They also are required to read two additional books from the list.

In coming eighth graders are required to read three books: *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and two other books from the reading list. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* will introduce students to the harsh reality of growing up in poverty in New York in the early 1900s while also having them enjoy reading about the life of a young woman.

Note: You may go to www.arbookfind.com to get more good ideas for books as well as the important information about reading levels and age-appropriateness. This is from the company *Renaissance Learning*. We will be using their program in the fall called *Accelerated Reader (AR)*. To learn more you can go to www.renlearn.com.

Here is a code to help you understand the symbols below:

IL means Interest Level. *This is very important.*

The books I have chosen have both a MG and a UG interest level. The ones with a UG interest level have complex themes and terminology but they are appropriate for our students.

LG means the book is appropriate in content for Grades K-3.

MG means the book is appropriate in content for Grade 4-8.

UG means the book is appropriate in content for Grades 9-12.

BL means Book Level. This is the reading level. In the fall we will begin to do official STAR testing (from the same company that provides AR) and you will have definitive reading level that is just right for you. For this summer you will need to do the best estimate that you can. Remember that you will need to prove in the fall that you really understood and can recall the events in the book. Try to choose books that really match your reading level.

AR Points mean how many points you will earn if you get 100% on the AR quiz after reading the book. You will learn all about this in the fall ☺

The supplementary list contains books of various reading levels. I suggest that you examine these books at the library before choosing the one you wish to read. Of course, you may also email me with any questions. Parents and students can review the novels to choose one that is of an appropriate reading level as well as an interesting subject matter. While reading the novels this summer, be sure to take notes

on the charts that are included. This will prepare you to discuss the reading with fellow students in the fall.

Sincerely,

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