

May, 2010

Dear Seabury Sixth Grade Student:

Welcome to Seabury Hall from Mrs. Martelles, your sixth grade English teacher 😊 . This summer, the very best way to prepare for the exciting opportunities and challenges ahead is to READ! Seabury Hall is committed to the habit of reading: it creates academic success--and opens exciting new worlds as well. All you need to do is read THREE books--one chosen from the list on the reverse side of this letter, plus two more of your choice. Your free-choice picks may be fiction or nonfiction by any author, as long as they meet the following guidelines:

- \* Your books should each be **about** 200 pages long.
- \* Your books should be at a middle school--not elementary--level of difficulty.
- \* Please choose books that you have never read before.

Here's what you need to do with your books:

I. List your titles & authors below 📖 --& be sure you & your parent sign.

II. Choose **ONE** of your 3 books & write a short book review.

Your review should include:

1. A summary (2-4 sentences) of your book's main problem/storyline--but remember not to give away the plot!
2. Comments (7-10 sentences) on why you do &/or do not like the book.

You might consider:

- a. the story action: exciting? interesting? slow? predictable?
  - b. the characters: real? funny? cool? strange? boring? predictable?
  - c. the theme/message: Does the story (or the characters) connect with you in your own life? How or how not?
3. Is this book for boys or girls or both? What age level?
  4. Give the book a rating from:

\* (Don't read this book!) to \* \* \* \* \* (You HAVE to read this book!)

CHECK OUT THE SAMPLE BOOK REVIEW ON THE BACK OF THIS LETTER!

Note: Your review may be typed or neatly handwritten. Bring it to class the first day.

Optional: Write a second review on your most favorite book of all time!

Have a terrific summer--and have fun choosing and reading your books.

I'll see you in August. We're going to have a great year!



The 3 summer books I read are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

your signature 😊 : \_\_\_\_\_

parent signature 😊 : \_\_\_\_\_

## 6th Grade Summer Reading Suggestion List

Make 1 selection from this list, plus 2 of your own picks--either from the list or your own choice.

### Classics:

Any unabridged classic, e.g., Robin Hood, Treasure Island

### Realistic Fiction:

Chasing Redbird, Heartbeat, or any title by Sharon Creech

Hoot, Flush, or any title by Carl Hiassen

Hatchet or any title by Gary Paulsen

Holes or Small Steps by Louis Sachar

Crash or Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

Bud, Not Buddy or any title by Christopher Paul Curtis

### Historical Fiction:

True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

Bull Run by Sid Fleischman

Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park

Night of the Howling Dogs, Under the Blood Red Sun, or any title by Graham Salisbury

### Science Fiction:

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Interstellar Pig by William Sleator

### Fantasy:

Perloo the Bold by Avi

Chronicles of Narnia (any title) by C. S. Lewis

Measle and the Wrathmonk by Ian Ogilvy

Eragon, Eldest, or any title by Chris Paolini

The City of Ember or any title by Jeanne Duprau

The Lightning Thief or any title by Rick Riordan

A SPECIAL NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT READ these titles:

Freak, the Mighty by Philbrick

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Taylor

And Then There Were None by Christie

The Outsiders by Hinton

Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer by Grisham

We may be using these books in class, so if you have not yet read them, please wait so we can experience them together. (THANK YOU! THANK YOU!)



Here's a sample book review:

**ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS--A Kid's Review**

I would give this book 4 stars because it was really good. This book kept me on the edge of my seat, plus I have a lot of connections with the story. One connection is my Indian heritage and my great grandpa. The story is about an Indian girl, Karana, who has to survive on an island by herself. She ends up on the island because her little brother misses the boat and Karana jumps overboard to stay with him. After a while, Karana learns to make weapons and captures the leader of the wild dogs, whom she names Rantu. She also makes friends with birds and a sea otter. This book was very interesting because you were never quite sure what was going to happen next. I really like the way the author described the animals and the whole environment of the island. It's easy to imagine what the island was like. I like Karana because she's brave and did what she had to in order to survive. I thought it was really interesting how she could make friends with so many different animals, so she wouldn't feel so lonely. I would recommend this book to any 4th to 6th grader, boys or girls, especially if you like survival stories or animal stories.