

REQUIRED SAGE SUMMER WORK

Dear Soon-To-Be SAGE 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Students,

During the summer break, prior to returning to school in September, **you will be required** to complete the work for your grade level. When you return to school in September, you should expect to begin class work on your class novel.

THIRD GRADE

Read: El Deafo by Cece Bell

Things to consider:

How does Cece view being deaf and her hearing loss at the beginning of the story?

How does Cece view her hearing loss by the end of the book?

Use post its to mark important parts.

Be prepared to discuss and reference El Deafo during the first weeks of school.

Practice: Math addition and subtraction facts.

FOURTH GRADE

Read: Hatchet by Gary Paulson. We will be discussing the book in-depth as a class when you return in the fall. There will be assignments based on the book during the first several weeks of the school year.

Practice: Math facts (multiplication) through the 12's.

FIFTH GRADE

Read: The Watson's Go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis. You should easily be able to acquire a copy of this book in a public library or any book store. We have a small number of these novels to lend out. They are in the Westwood Office. (Be sure to leave your name with the office staff if you borrow one of these). If you do check out this book from the library, you will need it in your hands during the first two weeks of the school year.

When you return to school in September - literally the first day of school - we will begin using this shared text to discuss many aspects of characters in novels. Some of the things that we will discuss include:

- **Descriptions of characters beyond external features. Internal characteristics, speech/message characteristics, flat/round characters, static/dynamic characters, two and three dimensional characters, stock characters, dubious characters**
- **Characters' importance in a story; what part they play in the events (why did the author put them there at that time?)**
- **Motivations of characters**
- **Significance of the actions of characters**
- **How characters relate to one another, as well as to the theme of the novel**
- **What happens to the character**
- **What the author thinks of the characters and what other characters think of each other**
- **Capacity of the characters to change themselves or others**

In addition, we will look at the historical context of the novel and many aspects of the plot.

Plan to read the novel AT LEAST TWO TIMES. If you are going to read it right away this summer, plan to

read it again right before school starts. If you previously read the novel as independent reading, read it twice anyway. We will expect that you have written notes to yourself as you read the novel. Plan to use post-its (Sticky Notes/Think Marks) as you read the novel. As a reminder:

Sticky Notes/Think Marks

- **Keep track of questions**
- **Mark spots you're having trouble with**
- **Mark favorite spots**
- **Write connections - to other books, events, "real" life**
- **Draw a quick word sketch that helps us to think through a chapter**
- **Write a word that we want to look up later**
- **Mark an answer to a question we had earlier**
- **To keep track of clues to bigger questions**
- **To record our thoughts as they come to us during reading**
- **To remind ourselves of "stuff"**

Remember to write the page number on each sticky note. Use the prompts above to help you think about what to "note." Have something important on each note. "Interesting" or "funny" tells you nothing about the text. Do not toss or sort notes until we ask you to do so! Depending on the number of pages you read during each reading session, you will have a minimum of 3 to 15-20 notes for EACH time you read. This is not a competition for the least or most notes. Write quality notes, but DO write notes because we will expect to see them in September.

Practice: Math facts (multiplication) through the 12's.

We are looking forward to meeting with you and getting to know you as readers. Be sure to set a reading goal for yourself this summer and enjoy the time that you have to savor what you're reading.

Have a great summer!

SAGE Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Teachers