May 19, 2017

Dear Upper School Parents and Guardians,

At C.W. Henry, we want our students to enjoy their summer- but not at the expense of their education! Studies have shown that middle school students who do not participate in a summer reading program actually lose their reading skills during the summer months and begin the school year behind their classmates. On the other hand, we know that summer reading can have many benefits.

We have chosen 2 titles for each grade as required reading for incoming 6-8th graders. **Students are expected to read both books by the beginning of September**. The best way to complete the work is to schedule some time throughout the summer to devote to it. Students who cram the reading and writing assignments into a short amount of time will not benefit as much from the program.

Assigned novels can be checked out of most public libraries throughout the city or ordered online for a minimal cost. Students should complete assignments in a 1-subject notebook and bring the notebook in the fall for credit. Novels and assignments are detailed on the following page of this letter. Parents are encouraged to read and discuss the novels with their child.

Students should feel free to read as much as possible over the summer!

**Upper School students will be held accountable for these books in the fall. Reading is mandatory and will represent the first reading test and writing grade.**

Have a wonderful summer! See you in September!

The C.W. Henry Upper School Reading Teachers

**C.W. Henry 6th-8th Grade**

**Summer Required Reading Assignment**

1. Read your two assigned novels.
2. For each novel, complete all of the questions and creative assignments listed below. *Refer to and cite specific page numbers for every journal response*.
3. Document your work in a 1-subject notebook and bring the notebook to class in September.
4. The creative picture can be separate from your notebook.

* **Complete 5 of the following journal reflections** in 3-5 sentence short answers. Make sure to cite page numbers you reference next to your answer. *Do this activity for EACH book.*
  + When I first started reading the book I though… then as I continued…
  + The part of the book that most surprised/confused me was…
  + I wonder why (character’s name)…
  + I could relate to (character’s name) because…
  + This book reminded me of (another book or movie) because…
  + This novel made me think about…
  + The most memorable quote in the book was…It was meaningful because…
  + The most important lesson I learned from reading this book was…
  + Other kids my age would/would not like this novel because…
* **Write a letter in the first person point of view** from one character to another in the novel. Be sure to include the character’s feelings, thoughts, likes/dislikes, experiences, problems, wishes and desires. Put it in the form of a letter with a date, salutation, 15 sentences- 3 paragraph body (each paragraph indented), and closing. ***Extra credit: Write a response letter from the perspective of the other character!***
* **List 5 open-ended questions you have about the novel**. These should not be “yes” or “no” questions. Instead, they should be thought- provoking questions which can be discussed by your classmates. For example, a good question would be, “Why do you think Little Red ALWAYS wore her cape?” or “How do you think Little Red felt when she wore her cape?”
* **Create a sketch, collage, painting, or other visual picture** of the most important scene of the novel. Write a 3-5 sentence summary and explain why do you think it was the most important scene in the entire novel. Be sure to include all the characters involved in that scene. Cite the page number of the scene.

**For INCOMING 6th Graders**

***Al Capone Does My Shirts***. Gennifer Choldenko

In this appealing novel set in 1935, 12-year-old Moose Flanagan and his family move from Santa Monica to Alcatraz Island where his father gets a job as an electrician at the prison and his mother hopes to send his autistic older sister to a special school in San Francisco. When Natalie is rejected by the school, Moose is unable to play baseball because he must take care of her, and her unorthodox behavior sometimes lands him in hot water.

***Rules***. Cynthia Lord

Twelve-year-old Catherine has conflicting feelings about her younger brother, David, who is autistic. While she loves him, she is also embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by their parents. In an effort to keep life on an even keel, Catherine creates rules for him (It's okay to hug Mom but not the clerk at the video store). Each chapter title is also a rule, and lots more are interspersed throughout the book.

**For INCOMING 7th Graders**

[***Will Grayson, Will Grayson***](http://www.amazon.com/Will-Grayson-John-Green/dp/0142418471/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1463925425&sr=8-1&keywords=will+gray) by John Green  
One cold night, in a most unlikely corner of Chicago, Will Grayson crosses paths with . . . Will Grayson. Two teens with the same name, running in two very different circles, suddenly find their lives going in new and unexpected directions, and culminating in epic turns-of-heart and the most fabulous musical ever to grace the high school stage. Told in alternating voices from two YA superstars, this collaborative novel features a double helping of the heart and humor that have won them both legions of fans.

[***When I Was the Greatest***](http://www.amazon.com/When-Was-Greatest-Jason-Reynolds/dp/1442459484/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1463925380&sr=8-1&keywords=when+I+was+the+greatest) by Jason Reynolds  
In Bed Stuy, New York, a small misunderstanding can escalate into having a price on your head—even if you’re totally clean. This gritty, triumphant debut that Publishers Weekly calls “a funny and rewarding read” captures the heart and the hardship of life for an urban teen.

**For INCOMING 8th Graders**

[***Somewhere in the Darkness***](http://www.amazon.com/Somewhere-Darkness-Walter-Dean-Myers/dp/0545055776/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1368656777&sr=1-1&keywords=somewhere+in+the+darkness)**by Walter Dean Myers**

Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years. But one day he comes back -- on the run from the law. Together, the two of them travel across the country -- where Jimmy's dad will find the man who can exonerate him of the crime for which he was convicted. Along the way, Jimmy discovers a lot about his father and himself -- and that while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood and forgiven.

[***Endangered***](http://www.amazon.com/Endangered-Eliot-Schrefer/dp/0545165768) by Eliot Schrefer

The Congo is a dangerous place, even for people who are trying to do good. When Sophie has to visit her mother at her sanctuary for bonobos, she’s not thrilled to be there. Then Otto, an infant bonobo, comes into her life, and for the first time she feels responsible for another creature. When an armed revolution breaks out in the country, the sanctuary is attacked, and the two of them must escape unprepared into the jungle. Caught in the crosshairs of a lethal conflict, they must struggle to keep safe, to eat, and to live.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***Please bring in your copy of this text to use in class for the first weeks of school.\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***