

Summer 2010

Dear Rising Sixth Graders,

Congratulations on successfully completing fifth grade and Happy Summer! I am looking forward to welcoming you to 6<sup>th</sup> grade English in September. In the meantime, I have an assignment for you and so does your history teacher, Tr. Martha.

Here is your assignment from Tr. Martha for history. She writes: "You will have to read *Life in Ancient Mesoamerica (Peoples of the Ancient World)* by Lynn Peppas. The book provides a thought-provoking summary, with pictures, of many aspects of daily life in ancient Mesoamerica, including information about architecture, art, war, government, science and the traditions and beliefs of the people. Sixth graders are required to have completely read the book by the first day of classes."

**Over the summer, I would like you to select and read at least two books from the list.** As you know, one of the requirements during the summer before sixth grade is that you read a book from the list and create a project that builds on what you have learned from your reading. **Remember, although you will be reading at least two books from this list, you will only have to create a project for one of the books.** This year you should pick your books from the following titles:

<i>The Wanderer</i>	Sharon Cheech
<i>Bud Not Buddy</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis
<i>Sun and Spoon</i>	Kevin Henkes
<i>Yolanda's Genius</i>	Carol Fenner
<i>Scorpion's</i>	Walter Dean Myers
<i>Year of Impossible Goodbyes</i>	Sook Nyul Choi
<i>Mick Harte Was Here</i>	Barbara Park
<i>Wringer</i>	Jerry Spinelli
<i>Stargirl</i>	Jerry Spinelli
<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry

These are great books, and I hope you will enjoy them. They are all available at any of the local bookstores and area libraries.

In each of these stories, the protagonist learns a life lesson. I am asking you to create a thoughtful, two-dimensional project that describes a life lesson from your life that you would like to share as part of your introduction to the class. You may draw a picture, make a collage, tell your story in any medium, in any form that can be easily hung on a wall. Be prepared to discuss your project and readings with the class on the opening days of school. Classroom space will be limited in the early days of school so the two-dimensional requirement is firm.

I strongly encourage you to get started with your reading early, so that you don't wind up rushing through your books. Reading isn't as much fun when you have to rush; the project won't be much fun either if you wait until the last minute. Start early and plan well because I want you to enjoy these readings and your project.

Your final project is due on the first full day of school. **Please do not bring it to registration.**

Enjoy your summer and your reading!

Best Wishes,

*Tr. Dianna*

Dianna Newton

Your Sixth Grade English Teacher