

June 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian of incoming 8th grader,

In order to prepare students for the 2010/11 school year, I am requiring a summer reading assignment. Rather than asking all students to read the same book, I have provided a selection of titles below. Each choice (except for *Gathering Blue*), is the first book in a fantasy/adventure or science fiction series, and will introduce your child to a new genre typically enjoyed by students in this age group.

Students should choose one book from the list. Students will keep a journal of their reading experience (see attached). All students will take an AR quiz within the first month of school. In addition, the book may be used later in the year to write a comparison essay with another book. The assignment should be completed and passed in on the first day of school. The summer reading assignment will count as **a quiz grade**.

Among the Hidden by Magaret Peterson Haddix
Gregor the Overlander: Book One in the Underland Chronicles
by Suzanne Collins
Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
*contains violence, parental discretion is recommended
Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry

The books are available through local libraries at <http://www.sailsinc.org>, local bookstores, and through Amazon.com.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ford Middle School at (508) 998-0265.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. A. Melo
8th Grade Reading

THE ASSIGNMENT

Students must keep a journal of their reading experience to be passed in on the first day of school. The journal will include five entries. Each entry should include:

- date the entry was written
- creative title/heading for that entry (**NOT** “Entry number 1” etc.)
- should be at least 5-8 sentences (can be more)
- written in complete sentences

The student may either write or word process the entry, as long as all entries are produced the same way. You may put two entries per page. You should ***feel free to add*** more to your entry than what is listed below.

Entry Number One: This entry should be written once you have selected your book, but before you actually begin to read. Answer the following: What do you know about fantasy or science fiction novels? Have you ever read fantasy or science fiction before? What book did you choose to read? Why did you choose this book over all the others? What do you think will happen in the story?

Entry Number Two:

What is the main conflict or problem in the story? Where and when does the story take place?

Entry Number Three: This entry should be written after you have read the first half of the book. Tell me about the main character in the book (name, age, personality traits (at least two)). Use evidence from the story to prove or back-up what you think (in other words, if you think the character is mean-spirited, explain why with an example from the book). Could you be friends with the character? Why or Why not?

Entry Number Four: This entry can be written when you finish the book. Make a connection to your own life, the real world, or something that you’ve read/seen. For example: Ask yourself, what has the character gone through? Do you see similarities between yourself and the main character? If yes, in what way? If not, why not? (Remember, just because you haven’t ridden a dragon, for example, doesn’t mean you can’t understand the character’s problem or personality.)

Entry Number Five: This entry should be written when you finish the book. Evaluate your predictions from your first entry (were you right or wrong? Why?). This entry is your opportunity to make any comment about the book. For example: Did you like it, why or why not? Would you read more books by this author? Why or why not? Would you read more fantasy or science fiction?

How could the book be improved? Would you recommend it to another student? Why or Why not?