

Dear Incoming 7th Grader,

It is both an honor and a responsibility to be selected by your sixth grade Language Arts teacher to be in this class. It will be a challenging course but also a stimulating one marked by classroom discussion of great literature, expansion of your vocabulary, and daily work to improve your writing skills. Your summer reading will consist of three books. You will then come back in August and take a comprehensive test and complete a project.

1. Read *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney and be prepared to take an exam on the book when you return to school in August. The format includes matching, multiple choice, and an essay question. To complete the essay portion of the test, you will need to identify and understand the following in your reading:
  - Be able to determine the rising and falling action, climax, and resolution in the novel.
  - Be able to identify examples of the following forms of figurative language: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and irony in the book.
  - Be able to explain whether each of the main characters in the novel is round or flat and either dynamic or static.

The other two books are your choice, we will complete a project on each of them within the first weeks of school. I recommend that you take notes or have some type of reading log to will help you recall specific details of the book. It's always a good idea to have a parent or adult approve the book titles you plan to read as some young adult novels have plots and themes that your parents may find inappropriate until you are older. They will be guiding and supervising your reading over the summer months. Come prepared, and please don't leave your reading until the last week or two of the summer. Have a great summer, see you in August!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Shear*

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