

Dear 5-8 Families,

It's hard to believe that summer is upon us, but we have made it! Your children have been working so hard this year, and we are so proud of them. We hope that everyone in your family has an opportunity to relax and refresh and enjoy the summer!

While it is important to take a break from the rigors of school, it is also important to keep minds active during the summer months. So, I am asking students entering grades 5-8 in the upcoming school year to read ONE of the following books. I will be using the books I am assigning as areas of discussion, as well as for writing prompts as we begin the next school year. It's always nice to have common ground at the beginning of the year among the students and not have to talk or write about "what I did over the summer". Feel free to allow your children to listen to the books, as long as they read along with a paper copy or Kindle version. YouTube often has stories available to listen to, as does the public library and Audible. I would also like to encourage you to sign up for the summer reading program that your local library offers. There are so many wonderful books out there and it is so important for children to gain a love for reading.

#### GRADE 5 CHOICES:

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

#### GRADES 6-8 CHOICES:

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James L. Swanson

Over Sea Under Stone by Susan Cooper

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board by Bethany Hamilton

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai (PLEASE GET THE YOUNG READER'S EDITION)

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

\*Greenwitch by Susan Cooper **GRADE 7 ONLY**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [mjoyce@sthelen.com](mailto:mjoyce@sthelen.com). There will not be a test or a project on any of these books. They are simply great books to read that will provide common ground for discussion at the beginning of the year.

May God bless you! Happy summer, and happy reading!

Mrs. Joyce

5-8 English/Language Arts