

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING BOOKS AND ASSIGNMENTS

## Fifth and Sixth Grades Required Reading

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade are required to read *Ruby Holler* by Sharon Creech. The assignment for the required book is as follows:

Choose **ONE** of the two assignments below for *Ruby Holler*. Please be sure to include your name at the top of the assignment.

1. Write a one page letter to one of the characters in the novel. Ask him/her questions as well as tell about yourself.
2. Summarize the plot by creating a cartoon version of the novel. Create about six to eight frames using an 8 by 11 size paper.

## Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade Required Reading

7<sup>th</sup> grade will read *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks.

8<sup>th</sup> grade will read *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck.

In September, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be required to write an **in-class essay** based on the required reading. In order to prepare for the in-class essay, where notes will be allowed, it is strongly recommended that you apply the following active reading strategies:

- Take chapter notes using post-its at the end of the chapter to summarize main thoughts.
- Highlight key concepts and main character traits as you read each chapter
- Write in margins any important ideas and questions you may have as you're reading
- Look up any unknown words and create a vocabulary list that you can share with your class in September
- As you read remember to note important themes and major plot events

**Assignment:** Using the strategies listed above, please prepare a **detailed outline** about one of the themes in your summer reading book. The outline is to be handed in to your language arts teacher in September.

By applying these strategies, you will be well prepared for your in-class essay.

### **Eighth Grade Required Reading**

In addition to the assignment above the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will read *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. This book will be discussed in Language Arts class in September. \*\*. \*\* If you have already read *The Secret Life of Bees*, you need to pick another selection of your choice, which is an awarding winning novel.

### **All Grades Independent Reading**

In addition to required reading, all students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades are required to pick two additional books of their choice and complete the following assignment for each of these books.

On a 5 by 8 size index cards, answer the following questions about each of the two books you chose. You may write in complete sentences or in bullet form. On the front of each card please include your name, title and the author's name.

Who? (are the main characters)

What? (is the book about)

Where?(does it take place)

When? (did the book take place)

Why? (do you think the author wrote this story)