

June, 2010

Dear Incoming 7th grade Students/Parents/Guardians,

This summer, incoming 7th grade students are required to read the novel ***The Watsons Go To Birmingham -- 1963*** by Christopher Paul Curtis. Use the question packet to guide your reading. You do not have to write your answers, but you must be prepared to discuss the questions and participate in group work. The novel and completed packet should be brought back to school on the first day in September. Audio versions of the novel are available through the public library. Please contact the library to request a copy if desired.

In addition to the class novel, students are required to read one additional choice book that is a memoir, historical fiction, or multicultural narrative (see back for general "off-limits" guidelines).* Refer to Ms. Miller's website for a list of suggestions. To demonstrate understanding and insight about the choice book, students must be prepared to discuss and respond to the attached questions.

Students are encouraged to read other materials for pleasure. The public library has an extensive list of recommendations available. Extra credit is available for writing book reviews for the public library. Any student who submits an "acceptable" book review to the public library will receive an extra credit grade of 100% for the first marking period. Please visit the public library and follow library guidelines and procedures.

Reading can be a truly memorable experience; take advantage of all the remarkable literature available. We look forward to seeing you in seventh-grade!

Sincerely,

Ms. Miller, Mrs. Radomski, and Mrs. Maher

Grade 7 Language Arts Teachers

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Please follow these guidelines for selecting the required choice book:

- Choose a book you've never read before.

- Do not read a book that has been made into a movie.

- **Avoid** novels read in class during middle school. Titles include the following:
 - *The Outsiders,*
 - *Hatchet,*
 - *Where the Red Fern Grows,*
 - *Among the Hidden,*
 - *The Hobbit,*
 - *The Watson's Go To Birmingham,*
 - *The Westing Game,*
 - *The Giver,*
 - *Diary of a Young Girl (Anne Frank),*
 - *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle,*
 - *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,*
 - *Nothing But The Truth,*
 - *Farewell to Manzanar,*
 - *Friedrich,*
 - *Daniel's Story,*
 - *Night,*
 - *Burning Up,*
 - *The Old Man and the Sea,*
 - *To Kill a Mockingbird,*
 - *The Midwife's Apprentice,*
 - *Flowers for Algernon.*