



June 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians and New Seventh Graders,

Congratulations! You will be entering the seventh grade in September. Summer is a time to relax and have fun with your friends as well as a good time to choose some interesting books and keep up with your reading. **Remember students who read over the summer do better in school than students who don't.**

In order to reinforce our school wide goals for literacy, our school is requiring seventh grade students to read **two** books. We are requiring that all 7th graders read **Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata.**

We strongly encourage you to read this with a partner. Ideally this would be a parent or adult from your family. As you read keep a journal of your thoughts and answers to the focus questions from the attached sheet. Each entry should be 5 - 7 sentences long.

The second book must be from the list below. This is mandatory school policy.

As part of this list we have included a challenge book that is a higher reading level than the others. We challenge you to stretch yourself and read this book. We have also included a picture book just for fun although it contains an important theme.

We hope you will read all of the books on the list including the challenge book and complete a project for each. Credit will be given for the first quarter mark on all summer reading.

In addition, you are also encouraged to read any other books of your choice. Keep a list of the books you read during the summer to receive credit for them in the fall.

Books

	<u>Author</u>
1. <u>The Sea of Monsters</u>- Fantasy	Rick Riordan
2. <u>My Brother Sam is Dead</u> - Historical Fiction	Christopher Collier & James Collier
3. <u>Far North</u>- Fiction/Adventure	Will Hobbs
4. <u>Homecoming</u>- Realistic Fiction	Cynthia Voigt
5. <u>Seedfolks</u>- Realistic Fiction	Paul Fleischman
6. <u>Sleeping Ugly</u>- Fairy Tale	Jane Yolen
7. <u>Fearless Fernie</u>- Poetry	Gary Soto
8. <u>Cathedral: The Story of its Construction</u>- Informational	David Macaulay
9. <u>Boy: Tales of Childhood</u>- Autobiography	Roald Dahl

Challenge book –

The Hobbit **J.R.R.Tolkien**

Just for fun -

The Other Side - (picture book) **Jacqueline Woodson**

Keep a notebook for your work, or type entries and collate.

Questions for Weedflower, by Cynthia Kadohata

1. Who are the members of Sumiko's family?
2. Why do you think she is so focused on the party?
3. What is Tak Tak worried about?
4. What happened at the party?
5. What event in history has happened? Why does the family now have fear?
6. What happens to Grandfather and Uncle?
7. How were the holidays different this year?
8. Why can't the family move out of the area?
9. What is the government's next order?
10. What does Sumiko take from Uncle's room?
11. Describe the family's new home.
12. Why do you think Sumiko buries her knife?
13. How is Arizona different from California?
14. How is the camp different from their last one?
15. Describe Sumiko's new friend Sachi.
16. Why do you think the men were beating Yamada?
17. Why do you think the Indians dislike the Japanese?
18. What arrangement does Sumiko make with Mr. Moto?
19. What is Sumiko's favorite thing? Why do you think that is?
20. Why doesn't Sumiko want to leave the camp?
21. What does Frank have in common with Sumiko?
22. What happens in the gardening contest?
23. Why do YOU think the government put the Japanese in a camp?
24. Why do you think Sumiko goes with the others to steal a chicken?
25. What does Sumiko do when the boys attack Frank?
26. What does Sumiko promise Kenji? Why do you think this is important to him?
27. Why do you think Sumiko isn't sorry for hitting Kenji?
28. How does the meeting between Joseph and Bull go?
29. What does the government require the Japanese to do next?
30. What issue is the family divided about?
31. What premonition does Sumiko have about her cousins?
32. Do you think Sumiko should stay in the camp or leave? Why?
33. What do you think happens to Sumiko after the story ends?