



June 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians and New Eighth Graders,

Congratulations! You will be entering the eighth grade in September. Summer is a time to relax and have fun with your friends and also a time to choose some good 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 eighth grade students to read **two** books. We are requiring that all 8th graders read **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne**. 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 between six and nine 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 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 in the fall.

Books

Author

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Across Five Aprils</u> | Irene Hunt |
| 2. <u>Maximum Ride – The Angel Experiment</u> | James Patterson |
| 3. <u>Among the Hidden</u> | Margaret Peterson Haddix |
| 4. <u>Treasure Island</u> | Robert Louis Stevenson |
| 5. <u>House on Mango Street</u> | Sandra Cisneros |
| 6. <u>The Emperor's Silent Army</u> | Jane O'Connor |
| 7. <u>Little Women</u> | Louisa May Alcott |
| 8. <u>A Night to Remember</u> | Walter Lord |

Challenge book –

To Kill a Mockingbird **Harper Lee**

Just for fun -

The Butterfly **Patricia Polacco**

For the second book that you read chose one of the following options for your project:

1. Create a journal or diary of at least 10 entries as if you were the main character (protagonist) in the story. Each entry should be no shorter than 5 sentences. These should follow the sequence of the story and have an attractive cover.
2. Create a book jacket that has a summary of the book on the back cover, a report about the author on the flaps and a colorful cover which reflects the story with title and name of the author on the front.
3. Create a children's picture book with text and illustrations based on the book you read. It should have an attractive cover and be at least 10 pages long.

Journal Questions - Eighth Grade Summer Reading

***You may keep your journal in a notebook (spiral or marble), or type and collate it. ***

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Chapter 1

1. Why is the family moving?
2. How is Bruno's father's job different from his friends' fathers' jobs?

Chapter 2

1. Why doesn't Bruno like the new house?
2. Does Bruno's mother seem happy about the move?

Chapter 3

1. Who is the "Hopeless Case"?
2. Why don't Bruno and Gretel get along?

Chapter 4

1. What can the children see from the window?
2. Where do you think they are?

Chapter 5

1. How does Bruno's father react when Bruno complains about the move?
2. How does Bruno's father explain the people Bruno saw?

Chapter 6

1. Why is Maria loyal to Bruno's father?
2. Why doesn't Bruno run away?

Chapter 7

1. Who helps Bruno when he is hurt?
2. Why do you think Bruno's mother wants to lie about it?

Chapter 8

1. What special activity does Bruno's grandmother do with him and his sister every year?
2. Why did Grandmother fight with Bruno's father?

Chapter 9

1. What new character enters the book in this chapter?
2. Why do you think Bruno disobeys his parents to go exploring?

Chapter 10

1. What does Bruno find while exploring?
2. What do the two boys have in common?

Chapter 11

1. Who is The Fury?
2. Why does Bruno dislike him?

Chapter 12

1. Why is Shmuel in the camp?
2. Why doesn't Bruno tell the others about his new friend?

Chapter 13

1. What does Bruno bring Shmuel?
2. What happened to Lieutenant Kotler's father?

Chapter 14

1. How does Bruno cover up mentioning Shmuel to Gretel?
2. Why do you think he doesn't tell her the truth?

Chapter 15

1. Why doesn't Bruno like Kotler?
2. What does Bruno do when Kotler confronts him about Shmuel?

Chapter 16

1. Why did the family go to Berlin?
2. Why does Bruno have to get a haircut?

Chapter 17

1. Where are Bruno, Gretel, and their mother going?
2. How does Bruno feel about this move?

Chapter 18

1. What do the boys plan for their final adventure?
2. How will Bruno be able to sneak in?

Chapter 19

1. How is the camp different from what Bruno expected?
2. Where do the boys go at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 20

1. What happened to Bruno?
2. How does his father react? Why do you think he has this reaction?