

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Essayist Joseph Addison wrote, 'Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.' In today's world, young people exercise their bodies to keep in shape, and any break in an exercise routine will cause them to immediately lose muscle tone. Similarly, it makes perfect sense that any break in reading, the exercising of the mind, will diminish reading comprehension skills. Research has shown that time spent reading correlates with academic success, vocabulary development, standardized-test performance, attitudes toward additional reading, and the development of world knowledge (Moore, Bean, Birdyshaw & Rycik, 1999). With this in mind, the Fox Lane Middle School English teachers have created our summer reading assignment.

We are asking that each student read **two books** this summer, one from the required list below and one book of choice. The books selected for required reading all connect to the FLMS theme of CARE (cooperation, accountability, respect and effort). Through this reading, students will have the opportunity to explore these themes that we will continue to explore throughout the school year.

During the first few weeks of school, all students, under the direction of their English teacher, are required to complete an assignment based on the books they have read during the summer. Your child may want to take notes while reading to help remember important details about the book(s) as an aid in completing the assignment in the fall. Graphic organizers will be provided to students as a way to keep track of the reading. These graphic organizers will be available in all English classes until the last day of school, on-line on the school's website, at local libraries and in the main office for pick-up.

**Remember, the writing assignment based on summer reading will be completed in class during the first week of school.**



<b>Required List</b> <i>Read one book from the list below and be prepared to discuss and write about the book during the first week of school. Books will be available at FLMS, local library and book stores.</i>	<b>Choice Options</b> <i>Read one book of your choice using any of the resources below to help you find a book. Be prepared to discuss your book during the first week of school.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Giver</b> by Lois Lowry  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Pigman</b> by Paul Zindel  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Freak the Mighty</b> by Rodman Philbrick  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Seedfolks</b> by Paul Fleishman  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Felita</b> by Nicholasa Mohr  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Where the Red Fern Grows</b> by Wilson Rawls  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Esperanza Rising</b> by Pam Munoz Ryan	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Book from book swap</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Peer/teacher recommendations</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Town library</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>On-line book lists</b> ( <a href="http://www.ala.org">www.ala.org</a> )  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nationally Recognized Award Winning Books</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Local book stores</b>

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. ~ Dr. Seuss ~