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Dear MESMS Parents,

As the warm weather approaches, we all look forward to many leisure activities planned for our summer vacation. As part of our ongoing effort to promote literacy, we strongly encourage our students to make reading an important part of those activities. All students entering the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be expected to read at least two books this summer.

One book must be selected from the attached list, (**LIST A**), of titles by the visiting author according to your child's grade level. The MESMS PTA has generously arranged to sponsor visits from these authors during the up-coming school year.

Students are expected to make three entries in a reading journal for their "visiting author" book. This journal may be typed or hand written. Each entry should be approximately one page in length and should reflect the student's understanding of the book. The topics for these entries are attached. All students will be expected to bring this journal to English class during the first week of school for use in classroom activities.

The second book must be selected from the attached list of recommended titles (**LIST B**), which have been recognized by various literary organizations as meaningful reading for middle school students. Please note that some of the titles on the reading list may have content appropriate for a mature (young adult) student; we ask that you assist your child in choosing appropriate books. These books are available at public libraries and local book stores.

For the "free choice" book, students are expected to keep a calendar of their reading (attached). A parent/guardian signature is requested on this calendar and it will be collected by your child's English teacher during the first week of school.

Thank you very much for your continued support of our literacy program. Happy reading!

Sincerely,  
The MESMS English Department

### **Summary of MESMS Summer Reading Requirements**

- **All students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 are expected to read 2 books this summer.**
- **One book must be chosen from List A (attached) according to grade level.**
- **For the LIST A book, students are expected to write 3 journal entries (attached).**
- **One book must be chosen from List B (attached).**
- **Students are expected keep a reading calendar (attached) for their "List B" book.**
- **The reading calendar and the journal are due the first week of school.**

## Summer Reading List A

Grade 6	Park, Linda Sue	<u>A Single Shard</u> ; <u>Project Mulberry</u> ; <u>Archer's Quest</u> ; <u>When My Name Was Keoko</u> ; <u>The Kite Fighter</u> ; <u>See Saw Girl</u>
Grade 7	Pearsall, Shelley	<u>Crooked River</u> ; <u>Trouble Don't Last</u> ; <u>All of the Above</u> ; <u>All Shook Up</u>
Grade 8	Bauer, Joan	<u>Backwater</u> ; <u>Hope Was Here</u> ; <u>Stand Tall</u> ; <u>Squashed</u> ; <u>Rules of the Road</u> ; <u>Best Foot Forward</u> ; <u>Sticks</u>

### Writing Prompts for "LIST A" Book

Choose one book from the list above according to your grade level in fall of 2008. You are expected to create 3 journal entries while you're reading. Each journal entry should be at least one full page and contain specific details from the book to support your response. Answer on separate paper. You are responsible for bringing these journal entries to English class the first week of school.

### **#1. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF**

Choose a **character** you met early in the book with whom you were able to make a connection.

What kind of **connection** can you make? (Choose one)

- Text to Self – (this character reminds you of yourself)
- Text to World – (this character reminds you of someone you've met in the real world)
- Text to Text – (this character reminds you of a character in another book)

Describe ONE way this character reminds you of either yourself, someone you've met, OR another character from another book. Be sure to use specific examples and descriptive details from the book to help support your answer.

### **#2. AND THE PLOT THICKENS**

Choose a **conflict** that arises in the book with which you are able to make a connection.

What kind of **connection** can you make? (Choose one)

- Text to Self – (this conflict reminds you of a conflict in your own life)
- Text to World – (this conflict reminds you of a conflict in the real world)
- Text to Text – (this event reminds you of a conflict in another book)

Describe ONE way this conflict reminds you of either a conflict in your life, a conflict in the real world, OR a conflict in another book. Be sure to use specific examples and descriptive details from the book to help support your answer.

### **#3. AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?**

How was the story resolved?

Explain how the conflict in the story was solved and the effect it had on the main character. Be sure to use specific examples and descriptive details from the book to help support your answer.

