

Dear Parents/Guardians,

All students entering 6-8 grades in Decatur City Schools will be required to complete a summer reading assignment. The summer reading books can be found at Books-a-Million, the public library, Amazon.com, or any other book store.

**Grade Level Language Arts:**

**Entering 6<sup>th</sup> graders** will be required to read *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Students are required to complete a book report, which can be found on the DCS website, to be turned in at the start of the school year. Students also need to be prepared to take a test on the novel the second week of school.

**Entering 7<sup>th</sup> graders** will be required to read *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. Students are required to complete a book report, which can be found on the DCS website, to be turned in at the start of the school year. Students also need to be prepared to take a test on the novel the second week of school.

**Entering 8<sup>th</sup> graders** will be required to read *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. Students are required to complete a book report, which can be found on the DCS website, to be turned in at the start of the school year. Students also need to be prepared to take a test on the novel the second week of school.

**Advanced Language Arts:**

**Entering 6<sup>th</sup> graders** will be required to read *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Students are required to complete a book report, which can be found on the DCS website, to be turned in at the start of the school year. Students also need to be prepared to take a test on the novel the second week of school.

**Entering 7<sup>th</sup> graders** will be required to read *Freak the Mighty* Rodman Philbrick. Students are required to complete a book report, which can be found on the DCS website, to be turned in at the start of the school year. Students also need to be prepared to take a test on the novel the second week of school.

**Entering 8<sup>th</sup> graders** will be required to read *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck and “The Golden Touch” by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Students are required to complete an essay planner which can be found on the DCS website, to be turned in at the start of the school year. Students also need to be prepared to take a test on the novel the second week of school. Essay planner will be used to complete the writing component on the novel test.

Academic misconduct including, but not limited to plagiarism and duplicating the work of others will result in a grade of “0.”

I have read and understand the requirements for the summer reading assignments. I also understand that failure to complete these requirements will have a negative impact on my class average. This letter is to be signed and returned at the start of the school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Suggested Reading:**

**6th:**

*The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg

*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier

*Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

*Hate That Cat* by Sharon Creech

*Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life* by Chris Tebbetts and James Patterson

**7th:**

*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

*Miracle's Boys* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Among the Hidden* by Margaret Haddix Peterson

*Rebound* by Kwame Alexander

**Additional Suggestions for Higher Level Reading:**

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry

*Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

*Ghost* by Jason Reynolds

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

**8th:**

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

*The Maze Runner* by James Dashner

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

*Paper Town* by John Green

*Freedom Walkers* by Russell Freedman

**Additional Suggestions for Higher Level Reading:**

*Anthem* by Ayn Rand

*Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!