



Coventry Christian Schools 2008-2009

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May 7, 2009

Dear Fifth and Sixth Grade Parents,

I hope this letter finds you at the end of another successful school year! I would like to inform you of the 2009 summer reading assignments for our upcoming sixth and seventh graders. The Middle School English Department has once again selected reading material that we hope will ignite and encourage a desire to read, thus aiding our students in their use of vocabulary, spelling, comprehension, and of course, imagination.

Reading Assignments:

Upcoming 6th graders must read both books listed; the reading requirements for upcoming 6th graders are as follows:

- a. Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
- b. Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Upcoming 7th graders must choose **2** books from the following list:

- a. Catherine, Called Birdy by Karen Cushman
- b. Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry (a companion book to The Giver)
- c. Shades of Gray by Carolyn Reeder

Written Assignments:

A one-page assignment must be completed for each book read, unless the specific assignment states otherwise. Your child should choose a different assignment for each book. The options are as follows:

- a. Write a publisher's blurb that would help to sell the book (1/2 Page).
 - i. Use brief descriptions of the main characters and the main conflict found in the story (do not copy from the back of the book).
- b. Analyze a character. Explain how the character changes throughout the story.
- c. Write an additional ending to the book extending the story by one more chapter.
- d. Write a letter to one of the characters in the book (keeping their character in context). You may pretend to be one of the characters in the book or write the letter as yourself.
- e. Take an interesting character other than the main character and write an original short story with this secondary character as the main character.
- f. Rewrite a chapter of the story from a secondary character's point of view (someone other than the main character).

All assignments must be typed according to the following guidelines:

- Font: Times New Roman
- Size: 12
- Margins: 1"
- Double spaced
- Title Page: include student's name, title of book, assignment chosen, clearly defined signature of both student and parent affirming that the student read the book and completed the assignment on their own

Each assignment will be worth a test grade in your child's Literature class next school year. All assignments are to be turned in next fall within the first week of classes. After the first week, points will be taken from the assignment grade as a penalty for

tardiness. Failure to complete the assignments will be detrimental to your child's Literature grade for the first quarter.

I encourage you to get a head start! Books are available in the CCS library and/or your public library. This is a great opportunity to begin the next school year strong and positive! If you have any questions about the books and/or assignments, please email or call and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Summer Shipman