Dear Incoming Seventh Graders,

We are excited to have you join us in the seventh grade in September, and we’re looking forward to hearing about what you read over the summer. As you know, you must select one of the books on the suggested reading list and read it over the summer break. When you come to our classes in September, we will set aside a class block for you to write a letter essay about the book you read. So, during your reading, be sure to take notes on plot, theme, characterization, and the author’s writing style. Additionally, be sure to select a passage from the book that stands out for you in some way, and copy that passage, word for word, into your notes. You’ll need to have all of these notes available on the forms that we have provided in this packet when you write your letter essay in class.

We can’t wait to begin reading and thinking about literature with you in this serious-but-friendly way. We’re looking forward to your first letter essay and a year of chances to learn from you, learn with you, and help you learn more about the power and pleasure of books.

Fondly,
The 7th Grade ELA Teachers

All students are required to complete the summer reading as outlined. When students return to school they will finish the assignment with the guidance of their English Language Arts teacher. At that time, clarification will be made as to any changes in the final product.
Incoming 7th graders
Please choose one title to read over the summer.

The Compound by S.A. Bodeen (Lexile: 570)
After his parents, two sisters, and he have spent six years in a vast underground compound built by his wealthy father to protect them from a nuclear holocaust, fifteen-year-old Eli, whose twin brother and grandmother were left behind, discovers that his father has perpetrated a monstrous hoax on them all.

Pop by Gordon Korman (Lexile: 740)
Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin (Lexile: 720)
After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."

Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer (Lexile: 770)
Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Wonder by R.J. Palacio (Lexile: 790)
August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

Jackie’s Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By by Sharon Robinson (Lexile:1040)
The baseball legend's daughter augments her father's thoughts on persistence, integrity, citizenship, and commitment with personal memories and essays by such authors as Martin Luther King, Christopher Reeve, and Marian Wright Edelman.
**Paragraph 1:** Include the title of the book (underlined), the author’s name and background information, and background information about the novel.

- Use the back cover or inside flap to find information about the author
  - Where is the author from?
  - What are some of the author’s experiences?

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**Paragraph 2:** Significant passage page #

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**Paragraph 3:** Explain the significance of the passage based on 1 of the following:

*Why this is important to............*

- author’s writing style
- a character’s development
- the book’s plot
- the book’s theme

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[Type here]
**Paragraphs 4-6: Writing About Reading**

***Use separate note pages to write out your W.A.R. paragraphs.***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Writing about reading tasks can be a valuable way to engage with literature. By thinking critically about the text, readers can deepen their understanding and appreciation of the material. Writing about reading also helps to solidify one's comprehension and retention of the content. The process of formulating thoughts and articulating them in writing can be a transformative experience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Paragraph 7: Rating**

Rate the book on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the worst, and 10 being the best)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Rating the book on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the worst, and 10 being the best)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Paragraph 8: Recommendation**

- What type of reader would enjoy this book?
- Why would someone find this book interesting?
- What might someone learn from this book?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Recommendation for the book includes discussion of audience, interest, and learning outcomes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Writing About Reading” Prompts or Openers
Directions: Choose 3 ‘Writing about Reading’ prompts. Record your response on the lines below.

Reminder: Each paragraph includes explanation (answer the prompt) + textual support (embedded quotations) + commentary (reflection-insight).

Pick 1 prompt from numbers 1-3.
1. The narrative voice…
2. The climax of this book happened when…
3. The resolution of the main character’s problem ….

Pick 2 prompts from numbers 4-9.
4. Explain how internal or external forces cause one character from the novel to grow or change.
5. Identify one subplot from the novel and explain how it relates to the main plot of the novel.
6. Describe one setting from the novel and explain why it is important to a character or to the plot.
7. Examine, in detail, one character’s personality by including actions or dialogue as evidence of a character trait.
8. Identify one of the novel’s theme, and discuss how plot, setting, character, or conflict contributes to it.
9. Discuss a conflict in the book that is ‘timeless’ and ‘universal’

“Writing About Reading”
Directions: Pick 3 different prompts, and use this note paper for your writing notes.
Prompt # ____________
Name of prompt____________________________
Notes:___________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________
_______________________________________________

[Type here]
“Writing About Reading”
Directions: Pick 3 different prompts, and use this note paper for your writing notes.
Prompt # _______________
Name of prompt_____________________________________
Notes:____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
LETTER ESSAY RUBRIC

NAME:________________________

_____/5 points. Title of Book (underlined in the letter)

_____/5 pts. Author’s name included in the letter

_____/5 pts. Written in proper letter format:
   Salutation (Dear Reader, or Dear Everyone, )
   Closing (Your Student, or Sincerely,
   Your Name)

_____/5 pts. due date written out in the top right corner
   (example: January 5, 2013)

_____/10 pts. Mechanics (spelling, grammar, word choice, and sentence variety)

_____/15 pts. Recommendation of the book to another person or group (ONE full PARAGRAPH)

_____/15 pts. Rate the book from one to ten (EXPLAIN IN ONE PARAGRAPH)

_____/20 pts. Significant passage included and discussed (Copy and quote the passage directly from the text—DOUBLE INDENT)
   (Discuss the significance of the passage in terms of author’s writing style, or a character’s development, or the plot or book’s theme in paragraphs SEPARATE FROM THE PASSAGE)

_____/20 pts. 3 well-developed paragraphs -“Writing About Reading” (Include sufficient written discussions by using 3 “Writing about Reading prompts or openers.” Choose from the prompts and openers listed for you (Must include embedded quotations/textual evidence in your paragraphs)

Grade____________