Dear Incoming Fifth Graders,

I am excited to learn alongside you in English class this coming year. You will grow immensely as a reader and as a writer, and that growth starts with your summer reading and writing assignments. Here are a few things I would like you to complete this summer in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year:

READING:

- **Read three fiction or nonfiction books** at your reading level. Below you will find a few suggested titles, but you do not have to choose from this list if the books don’t sound appealing. Be sure to read a sample of them online to make sure they’re right for you. You can also head over to goodreads.com and yournextread.com to find other great books. You can also email me at llawrence@stpaulsmd.org for suggestions. I’d love to help!

- **Please note:** You’ll be expected to discuss the books you read with your classmates when we return to school in the fall, so make sure you read carefully—and enjoy!

**Recommended Titles:**
- *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood (***Young Readers Adaptation!***)*
- *My Life in Dog Years* by Gary Paulsen
- *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling
- *Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lao

WRITING:

Write about **one significant moment** from this summer. Capture the moment in great detail using all five senses.

- **Please do not write about the whole summer--or even a whole day. Choose a moment!**
- **Elaborate** with plenty of accurate, precise **details**.
- **Structure** the piece with a beginning, middle, and an end.
- **Proofread** for mechanics: spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- **Please do this writing by yourself, without any assistance from an adult.**

Please note: Roughly, this personal essay should be one to two pages long, double-spaced, using 12-point font. However, quality is much more important than quantity.

Have a great summer, and I’ll see you in the fall!

Sincerely,

Ms. Lawrence
Fifth Grade English Teacher