

Dear Rising Eighth Graders and Seventh Graders,

We are 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 assignments. Here are a few things we would like for you to complete this summer in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year:

## READING:

- Required Book for Rising 8th Graders: *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario
- Required Book for Rising 7th Graders: *The Wild Things* by Dave Eggers
- Please also read two more fiction or nonfiction books at your reading level. Below is a list of suggested titles, but you do not have to read these books if they are not appealing. Be sure to read a sample or a review online to make sure they're right for you! You can also head over to [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com) and [yournextread.com](http://yournextread.com) to find other great books. Please also email Bob Keal (8th) or LaShanda Lawrence (7th) if you are looking for suggestions. We'd love to help!

We will start the year by discussing our summer reading, so please read carefully and enjoy!

### Suggested Fiction Titles:

- *Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton
- *Darius the Great Is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram
- *Chaos Walking (Series)* by Patrick Ness
- *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart
- *The Journey Back* by Priscilla Cummings (sequel to *The Red Kayak*)
- *Ghost (Series)* by Jason Reynolds
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *Class Act* by Jerry Craft

### Suggested Nonfiction Titles

- *Escape From Camp 14* by Blaine Harden
- *Enrique's Journey (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother* by Sonia Nazario
- *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

## WRITING:

Choose **one** of the prompts to answer in a few (2-3) paragraphs:

- Compare and contrast this summer to last summer. How is it different? How was it the same?
- Write a description of your summer that appeals to all five senses: What did you hear? Smell? Taste? See? Feel?
- Is summer vacation an outdated tradition that is unnecessary in (no longer right for) these modern times? Support your opinion with valid reasons and facts.
- So you had a bad summer? If you could change how your summer went, what would the perfect summer break be for you?

Your response should be typed, titled, double-spaced, using 12-point font. Quality is much more important than quantity.

See you in the fall!

Sincerely,

LaShanda Lawrence, Seventh Grade English Teacher  
Bob Keal, Eighth Grade English Teacher