

May 21, 2008

Dear Entering Form I Students:

We hope you have a wonderful summer planned, and we look forward to hearing about your adventures when you return to the Middle School in the fall. Whatever else you do, we hope that you are able to find time to read a lot.

To get you started thinking about summer reading, here is the Form I Summer Reading List. You are required to read four books from this reading list: the all-form book, which is *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*, and three others. Each of your three other books must be chosen from a different genre in order to fulfill the summer reading requirement. We, of course, would love it if you read more than four books from the list. With Mrs. Ashworth's help, we have put together a list of outstanding books, all of which are well worth reading.

Although you will not be tested on your three selected summer reading books, you will write an in-class essay on each of these books during the first weeks of school. These essays will be graded as part of your first trimester's work. We suggest you jot down a few notes as you read in order to remember important details. Scribble down characters' names, settings, major plot details, and what you think the book's theme might be.

We will be discussing *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and using it quite a bit in class. Since we will be referring to specific pages in class, it would be helpful for you to purchase the Yearling paperback copy. The ISBN-10 number for this edition is: 0553494953, and the ISBN-13 number is: 978-0553494952. The list price of the Yearling edition is \$6.50. It might be a good idea to read this book in August and to take good notes while reading it as we will spend a few weeks with the text in class. You will do some writing on the novel and will be tested on it.

You must write a "teaser" for the three required books you read; a teaser is not necessary for *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy*. These should be typed using Times New Roman 12 point font and printed directly on, or neatly glued onto, a 3 x 5 notecard. If you are not sure how to start, look at the teasers on the summer reading list. Remember that the teasers have to be written by you. Be sure to use complete sentences and check that your spelling and grammar are correct. Teasers are graded.

The Form I Summer Reading List can be found on the Shady Side Academy web page. Check www.shadysideacademy.org. Click on "Parents," then "Downloadable Forms," then "Summer Reading Lists."

Enjoy your summer. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Ms. Banwell
Learning Area Coordinator,
English Department