

May 25, 2010

Dear Sixth Grader,

Is it exciting and maybe a little scary to think of yourself as a sixth grader? I know that we are going to have a great year together, and I am really looking forward to meeting you. However, before that happens, I plan to enjoy summer vacation with a few good books and would like you to as well. Students here at the Middle School helped me create a summer reading list filled with many of our favorites; they were so excited to recall books that they think will be great summer reads for you.

Everyone reads the all-form book, *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead. This year it won the Newberry, and I read it aloud to my class. We all really enjoyed it and hope that you will as well. (ISBN 978-0-385-73742-5). When you come to class in the fall, we will discuss the novel and use it to begin our study of literature. You must also choose two other books from the summer reading list from two different genres. There are a lot of great choices, so feel free to read more than two. Many of the books are part of a series, so if you like the first, keep reading, or if you have already started a series on the list, you may read the next in the series and count it as one of your summer reading books.

There is no written assignment to go along with the books, but I do expect you to remember some details in order to discuss and write about the books in class. So, especially if you read them at the beginning of the summer, you may want to jot down some quick notes about the book. For example, you may want to write down the main characters' names, some of the problems they encounter, a favorite part of the book, or any questions you may have about the book. Again, this is not required, but it may be helpful to you in the fall.

The summer reading list can be found online in the following way:

- 1. Go to www.shadysideacademy.org**
- 2. Select Why Shady Side Academy on the top menu.**
- 3. Select Libraries from the left menu.**
- 4. At the bottom of the page select your reading list.**

I hope that you have a wonderful summer, and I will see you in the fall. If you have any questions, please email me at cheiler@shadysideacademy.org.

Happy Reading,

Ms. Heiler

Sixth Grader Teacher