

May 25, 2010

Dear Entering Form II Students:

I want to begin by thanking the current Form II students who met with Mrs. Ashworth and me during seventh period to help make this year's summer reading list one with a wonderful variety of books. Their suggestions really helped us make selections that will keep us reading, no matter where we spend our summers. Thanks Apoorva, Sahil, Jeff, Adam, Morgan, William, Alex, Hari, Madison M., Haley, Jane, Jenna, and Sophie!

Form II English has *What is justice?* as our essential question. We examine everything we read through the lens of this question. To help us get started, this year's all form book is Melba Pattillo Beals' Warriors Don't Cry. One of nine African-American teenagers who integrated Little Rock's Central High School, Ms. Beals' memoir details the struggle these children had to get the education guaranteed to them by the 1954 Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. The author is very straightforward in telling her story, and she includes the language that she hears used by segregationists in her narrative. This language is offensive. We use the Simon Pulse paperback edition, ISBN 978-1-4169-4882-7 and refer to page numbers from this edition during our discussions. Although no-one will check your highlighting and margin notes, we do recommend that you mark your book in the way that works best for you. Think about the literary elements of plot, setting, character, and theme as you read. Jot down your questions as well.

You are required to read three additional books from this reading list. We recognize that most readers have favorite genres, and we want to encourage you to keep exploring that genre. You may read two books from a genre that you know well, but you must also read one book from another genre. We've added two new categories to the list. For those of you who want to know more about events that led to the Civil Rights Movement, please check out the **More About the Fight for Civil Rights in the United States** category on the reading list. These books are both fiction and non-fiction. Some are quite short; others are longer. One is a play. All of them help us understand the historical period better. **Hot – or Still Quite Warm – Off The Press!** is a fun new addition to the reading list. We've included books that Form II found and loved this year in this section. Who knows? The next great best-seller may be one of these books! Of course, we would be very happy if you choose to read more than three books from the list!

You do not have to write a teaser for Warriors Don't Cry, but you must write a teaser for the three other books you choose from the list. These should be typed using Times New Roman 12 point font and mounted on a 3x5 index card. If you are not sure how to start, look at the teasers on the summer reading list. Remember that these have to be completely your own work. Be sure to use complete sentences and check that your spelling and grammar are correct. You do not have to write a teaser for Warriors Don't Cry.

Please look on the other side of this letter to see how you can find the reading list on the Shady Side Academy website.

Returning Middle School Students :

1. Login to the Community Login at www.shadysideacademy.org
2. Select the link inside the box titled Summer Reading Lists.
3. Select the link to your reading list.

New Middle School Students:

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.

Happy Reading! I look forward to talking about these books with you when you get back to school.

Ms. Banwell
Form II English