

May 24, 2010

Dear Entering Form I,

Summer is almost here, and beloved authors such as Rick Riordan, Joan Bauer, and Mike Lupica have brand-new offerings for you to dig into during all that free time you will have. See the “Hot off the Press” section of this list. Elsewhere on the list you will find titles that allow you to explore a new genre, a new author, or a new part of the world. You are required to read four books from this list: the all-form book, which is Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, and three others. Your three free-choice books must be from at least two different genres. We would love it if you read even more than four books from the list. Middle School English teachers, librarian Mrs. Ashworth, and next year’s Form II have all worked together to create a list with something for everyone.

We will be discussing Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy and working with it in class. Since we will be referring to specific pages, we ask that you purchase the Laurel Leaf paperback copy. The ISBN-10 number for this edition is 9780375841, and the ISBN-13 number is 9780375841699.

You will not take a test on your four summer reading books, but you will write about and discuss each of these books during the first weeks of school. Please use the enclosed worksheets to note characters’ names, settings, major plot events, and what you think the book’s theme might be. Themes are the big ideas behind your book. Those of you who worked with Mrs. Heiler in sixth grade English spent a lot of time considering the big question “What is identity?” when you talked about The Outsiders and yourselves. Next year in Form I English, we will also keep returning to a thematic question: “What is empathy?” **Empathy**, the ability to imagine someone else’s situation, sounds simple but is a creative and complex part of being human. As you read your summer books, begin to think about how this concept might connect to them—and to your life.

Accessing the Summer Reading List for Returning Middle School Students (Forms I & II)

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.

Accessing the Summer Reading List for New Middle School Students (Grade 6 and Forms I & II)

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.

Enjoy your summer. Happy reading!

Ms. Turner