



# SHADY SIDE

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## ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
500 Squaw Run Road East  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
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May 2017

Dear Entering Sixth Grader,

This year's summer reading list includes some exciting new titles as well as wonderful books that have stood the test of time. **You are required to read four books from this list: the all-form book, which is *Fever 1793*, and three others. Each of your three other books must be chosen from a different genre.** It might be best to read the three choice books first and save *Fever 1793* for August so it will be fresh in your mind when you come to school. It would be spectacular if you read even more than four books from the list!

We will be discussing *Fever 1793* and using it in class. Since we will be referring to specific pages, it would be helpful for you to purchase the Simon & Schuster paperback copy. The ISBN-13 number is 978-0689848919. We will be writing about and discussing this book together during the first weeks of school. We are also extremely pleased that the author of *Fever 1793*, Laurie Halse Anderson, will be visiting our school in October. In preparation for our work with the novel, **please use the enclosed worksheet to note characters' names, settings, major plot events, and what you think the themes of *Fever 1793* might be.** (Themes are the big ideas behind your book.) Your notes about *Fever 1793* on the worksheet will help you remember details you will need as you complete assignments at the beginning of the school year.

In sixth grade English, we will be considering the complicated question "What is identity?" as seen through various books. As you read your summer books, begin to think about how this concept might connect to them. We will discuss this when we are together. **For each of your three choice books, please do one of the following mini-projects:**

- Redesign the cover.
- Draw a map of the book's setting.
- Draw a portrait of an important character in the book.
- Think of a song that expresses an important idea in the book and write three sentences about why you chose that song.
- Write down three interview questions that you would ask the protagonist of the book.

Although you will not be tested on your three selected summer reading books, you will discuss each of these books during the first weeks of school. **You should have three mini-projects ready to bring to school with you on Opening Day, August 29. It is not necessary to fill out worksheets on these books.**

The sixth grade summer reading list can be viewed on-line directly at [www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/summerinfo). It can also be viewed through the Parent Portal and on the page for newly enrolled families [www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/welcome).

Enjoy your summer. Happy reading!  
Mrs. Onest