



ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

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March 14, 2017

Dear Student and Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the Glendale Union High School District! As you finish your eighth grade year, we hope you are looking forward to the opportunities awaiting you when you enter high school in the fall. We are sure that once you become part of your new campus, you will find new friends and exciting ideas that will help you grow both personally and academically.

To encourage academic excellence, all nine high schools in Glendale Union offer students the opportunity to earn extra credit for freshman English during the summer. Attached you will find an optional assignment that our high schools have developed for any of the books on the following list:

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler - Phillip K. Hoose

The Lie Tree - Frances Hardinge

The Rest of Us Just Live Here - Patrick Ness

The Start of Me and You - Emery Lord

Dead End in Norvelt - Jack Gantos

A Darker Shade of Magic - V.E. Schwab

Salt to the Sea - Ruta Sepetys

Flowers for Algernon - Daniel Keyes

Should you wish to complete this optional assignment, you will be eligible for extra credit points in your freshman English class.

Research clearly demonstrates that students who read outside of school settings more quickly develop critical thinking abilities, expand their vocabularies, and become better writers – all skills that will help you find great success in high school. Students who remain academically engaged through summer reading also maintain a higher learning level, not needing as much time in the fall to “catch up” with the high school routine of reading and completing homework.

Examine the book list, and review the questions that you will address when school begins as part of the optional assignment. The questions are available on your school website under Academics > Summer Assignments. You may check the book out from the public library, download a copy from the public library from OverDrive, or purchase a copy. Your freshman English teacher will have specific instructions for you when high school begins on **August 7, 2017**.

Enjoy your summer – and enjoy these good books!

Sincerely,

Demetria Graham

Demetria Graham

Empowering All Students for the Choices and Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

Optional Summer Reading Response

Part A.

Directions: Complete this form to organize your thoughts about the book you read this summer. Your answers must be legibly written or word-processed and in complete sentences.

1. What is the title of the book? _____

2. Who is the author? _____

3. What is the primary setting¹ of the book? _____

4. Describe any additional settings, if applicable. _____

5. Describe the main character(s)². Include their names, and identify a characteristic of their behavior that makes them interesting. _____

¹ *setting: the time and place of the events in a story*

² *main characters: the protagonist(s) and antagonist(s); it is not necessary to discuss minor characters*

6. Describe the primary conflict(s)³. _____

7. Discuss a message or theme⁴ from the book. Include examples from the book as support. _____

8. Explain why you would or would not recommend this book to others. _____

³ primary conflicts: the problem(s) or struggle(s) between or among opposing forces that trigger(s) the action in literature
(e.g., person vs. person, person vs. self, person vs. nature, person vs. society)

⁴ theme: the underlying idea or statement that the author is trying to convey

Part B.

Directions: Consult your English teacher, who may have further instructions for you.