

## **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**

45 Highland Avenue, Cumberland, Rhode Island, 02864

### **2010 Summer Reading Requirement**

Dear Grade 6 and 7 McCourt Student,

As you know, reading is important. We believe that the summer break provides you with an excellent opportunity and the time to read. Summer reading is a requirement of all students who attend McCourt Middle School. We expect that you will complete your summer reading requirement prior to the start of school. An assessment (e.g. book report, test, project) will be assigned during the first month of school. In an attempt to provide more choice, there are four books for students entering grade 6 or 7 to choose from.

**Incoming Grade 6:** Choose one of the following:

*Al Capone Does My Shirts* – by Gennifer Choldenko

*Surviving the Applewhites* – by Stephanie Tolan

*Hatchet* – by Gary Paulsen

*Eragon* – by Christopher Paolini

**Incoming Grade 7:** Choose one of the following

*The Hero* by Ron Woods

*Flipped* by Wendelin Van Draanen

*Heat* by Mike Lupica

*The Lightning Thief* by Rich Riordan

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### 2010 Summer Reading Requirement

Dear Grade 8 McCourt Student,

For those of you entering grade 8, we expect that you have developed an interest in specific authors. As a result, grade 8 students may choose **any book** (novel) that is grade and age-appropriate. In the case that you do not have a book to choose, we have attached a long list of possibilities for you to review. We have also included a summary of the assignment that you are expected to complete related to the book you choose.

### Suggested Summer Reading Titles for Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Abbott, Tony. Firegirl  
Korman, Gordon. Schooled  
Paulsen, Gary. Lawn Boy  
Giff, Patricia Reilly. Pictures of Hollis Woods  
Lord, Cynthia. Rules  
Shusterman, Neal, The Schwa was Here  
Cummings, Priscilla. Red Kayak  
Funke, Cornelia. The Thief Lord  
Cooney, Caroline B. Code Orange  
Bloor, Edward. Tangerine  
Lupica, Mike. Heat  
Weeks, Sarah. So B. It  
Moriarty, Jaclyn. The Year of Secret Assignments  
Bunting, Eve. Jumping the Nail  
Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Faith, Hope, and Ivy June  
Trueman, Terry. Stuck in Neutral  
Bennett, Cherie. Searching for David's Heart  
Haddon, Mark, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time  
Grove, Vicki. Destiny  
Wallace, Rich. Wrestling Sturbridge  
Ho, Minfong. The Clay Marble  
Crutcher, Chris. Ironman.  
Kidd, Sue Monk, Secret Life of Bees  
Lee, Marie. Necessary Roughness.  
Lupica, Mike. The Big Field  
Flake, Sharon G. The Skin I'm In  
Sharenow, Robert. My Mother the Cheerleader  
Ahmedi, Farah. The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl On The Other Side Of The Sky

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Directions for completing the summer reading requirements before entering eighth grade:

Students must select **one** novel, read it, and then complete the following assignment. Each answer must be a minimum of one paragraph in length.

### **Setting:**

#### **Definition: The time and place of the novel.**

1. Describe, specifically, the setting of the novel. This should include both where and when the novel takes place. Where the novel takes place must include the main locations, such as the main character's house, school etc. When the novel takes place should include whether it's in the past, present, or future, as well as specifics, such as the year(s), season(s), etc.

How does the setting impact the character or events in the novel?

Example of the impact of a setting: In Hatchet, Brian is stranded in the woods, therefore does not have an appropriate shelter. However, plants with berries, and a nearby lake provide him with necessary food.

### **Character:**

2. List five adjectives to describe the main character(s). Then, provide an example to prove each adjective listed. This example can be something the character says or does in the novel.
3. List the main characters and describe their relationships to other characters in the novel.

Ex. In Tears of a Tiger, Andy is Keisha's boyfriend, Robbie's best friend, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, and brother of Monty.

4. Name one person in the novel who affects the main character(s) in some way. What does this person say or do to affect the main character(s)? Is this a positive or negative affect?

### **Theme:**

#### **Definition: Moral or point of the novel.**

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5. List at least two themes from the novel. Explain the events that happen in the novel to prove these themes.

### **Conflict/Resolution:**

**Definition: Conflict is a problem and the Resolution is how the problem is solved.**

6. Describe one conflict a main character has to go through and how it is solved.

### **CHOOSE ONE: (#7)**

Most novels have one or both of the following literary elements. Find one of them in the novel you read and answer the question.

### **Foreshadow:**

**Definition: Use of clues or hints to suggest events that will occur later in the plot.**

Are there any hints early on in the novel that foreshadow events that happen later on in the novel? If so, identify an example by providing a direct quote from the novel with the page number noted. Explain what event it foreshadowed.

### **Flashback:**

**Definition: Interruption in the present action of the plot to show events that happened at an earlier time.**

Does the main character(s) have any flashbacks? If so, identify one example by providing a direct quote from the novel with the page number noted. Explain how this flashback helps the reader understand the character better.

### **NOTES:**

Attached is a list of suggested titles with a synopsis of each. Students may choose from this list or select a novel on their own. Novels chosen must be age and subject appropriate. It is recommended that students review the assignment before reading the novel. Notes should be taken as the novel is being read to aid in completing their summer reading requirement. It is recommended that students type this assignment and save it to a flashdrive.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE TITLE, AUTHOR, AND ILLUSTRATOR OF THE NOVEL YOU READ IN THE REPORT SUBMITTED.

## **Joseph L. McCourt Middle School**

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June 20, 2010

Dear Parents of Incoming Grade 6 McCourt Middle School Students:

*Welcome to McCourt Middle School!* There are a few important pieces of information we wanted to share to help prepare your child for his/her transition to the middle school.

### **Grade 6 Orientation**

As we mentioned at the recent transition meeting, we are pleased to offer an orientation program to our newest students and their parents. The orientation program will take place on **Thursday, August 26th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at McCourt Middle School.** Immediately following the orientation, we will host a cookout. We strongly encourage parents and their child to attend. This program will provide students and their parents with a better sense of the expectations that we have for all students. Attendance at this event has been effective at reducing the anxiety that often accompanies a transition of this type.

### **Summer Reading**

Summer reading is a requirement for all students who attend McCourt Middle School. Students must choose one of the four book titles. Please see the reverse of this letter for more details.

### **Summer Math**

In addition to the summer reading requirement, McCourt students are expected to complete a summer math packet. The summer math packet was designed to help keep students' math skills sharp over the summer. We **expect** every student will return on the first day of school with this packet completed. Please see the math packet for additional instructions. All students who return the summer math packet completed will receive full credit on their first quiz of the year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Armand Pires  
Principal

Dr. Andrew Anderson  
Assistant Principal

Mr. Armand Pires  
Principal  
Mr. Andrew Anderson, Ed.D  
Assistant Principal

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