

June 2008

Dear Students and Parents,

Independent reading is an important part of the Language Arts curriculum. One of our goals this year in English/Language Arts is that you acquire a greater appreciation and love for reading. We also wish to see you continue to grow and to mature as readers.

Each student is required to choose at least one of the following approved, grade appropriate novels below. It is our hope that you do not choose a novel you have previously read.

The following is a list of approved books:

White, Ryan	The Ryan White Story	Bio/Memoir
Alcott, Louisa May	Little Women	Classics
Burnett, Frances H.	The Secret Garden	" "
Calonita, Jen	Secrets of My Hollywood Life; Family Affair	Contemporary Fiction
Sachar, Louis	Small Steps	Contemporary Fiction
Sonnenblick, Jordan	Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie	" "
Westerfield, Scott	Pretties	" "
Wooding, Chris	Storm Thief	" "
Barron, T.A.	Lost years of Merlin	Fantasy/Sci Fi
Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl	" "
Haddix, Margaret	Among the Hidden	" "
Giff, Patricia	Lily's Crossing	Historical fiction
Spiegelman, Art	Maus; Maus II	" "
Funke, Cornelia	The Thief Lord	Horror/ Mystery
McNamee, Graham	Acceleration	" "
Shusterman, Neal	Full Tilt	" "

After reading your novel, choose one of the response options below and complete this writing experience prior to your return to school.

Response Options:

- Become the major character in your novel and write a letter to the author who created you. Tell the author how you feel about the plot he/she put you in and the personality you were given.
- Take the identity of the main character and write two diary entries each one page in length. The entries should reflect your personal reactions to your character's involvement with the plot or with other characters.
- Use the novel you read to react to the statement:

"Novels hold a mirror up to life."

Show how this is or is not true in a detailed explanation for the novel you read.

Upon your return to Weber, you will be asked to share your reading experience in the hope that other students will be motivated to choose your selection as an outside reading assignment.

Very truly yours,

Weber 7th Grade
Language Arts Teachers