

SOPHOMORE SUMMER READING 2011

Summer is a time to go to Target Field to watch the Twins, a time to listen to loons up at the lake, a time to take a trip with your fam to see the Grand Canyon. We also hope that you will take a trip in your head by picking up a good book and letting it help you experience a place you have never known.

So we want you to choose a good book—one that you cannot put down, one that is so good that you read it far into the night, one that you do not want to end.

Where do you find such a book? Ask your friends, your folks, your aunties, the lady who reads as she walks her dog. Look on the bestseller lists, the website of the Hennepin County Library, which has all kinds of book club suggestions, nice descriptions and favorite books lists that people have put online. Browse a bookstore's shelves and look at the staff's favorite books. Read book reviews in the newspaper and online. Think of books that you have enjoyed in the past and ask a librarian if they know of others just like it.

Your book should be at least 275 pages long. It should not be a book that Hollywood has made a movie from. No Harry Potter because we have all read all the Harry Potter books. ☺ Just make sure that you enjoy it. It is a fabulous opportunity to be able to choose a school book, so if you find yourself bored or dreading to finish a book then ditch it and get one that lights up your heart. ☺

During the first days of school we will be talking about the book you read. So when you are finished, please begin this conversation by doing a little writing. We want you to write three paragraphs. The first paragraph should explain who your favorite character was in the book that you read. Tell us why you liked them so well. Was your character admirable? Funny? Did your character accomplish the impossible? Tell the stories that would support your choice. Secondly, choose the best scene in the book and tell us why it is your favorite. Make us feel your excitement, its coolness, its unbelievable beauty. Lastly, choose the best quotation in the whole book, write it out, cite it correctly, and then explain what makes it a powerful quotation for you. EACH OF THESE PARAGRAPHS MUST BE COMPOSED OF COMPLETE SENTENCES WITH CORRECTLY SPELLED WORDS AND A

TOPIC SENTENCE AND A CONCLUDING SENTENCE, JUST AS ALL PARAGRAPHS DO. Please type this assignment, double-spacing the ideas you write about, and please put it on recycled paper. It is due on the first day of school.

We hope that this summer is glorious enough to make up for the slow spring we have had this year. We look forward to spending time with you next fall because we are making lots of exciting plans for next year. Have a wonderful summer!

The English Department