

Dear Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders,

Summer is almost here and I know how much you are looking forward to spending time with your family and friends during the time off from school. However, I do ask that you spend some reading, whether that is on the beach, near the pool, in your yard, or even in your bunk at camp. Studies have shown that students who keep up with their reading over the summer boost their academic achievement and help maintain and even increase their reading levels.

For your summer assignment, I ask that you pick a memoir of your choosing. A memoir is a narrative text that focuses on a specific moment of time in a writer's life. Our first unit of study in September will be based on the qualities found within memoirs, as well narrative writing directly related to your own personal experiences. The effort you put forth will set the tone for our back to school discussions and help you prepare for your first assignments in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**While reading, you are asked to stop and jot based on the following three topics:**

- literary devices (metaphor, simile, personification, foreshadowing, imagery, hyperbole, etc)
- literary qualities (plot, characters, setting, mood, theme, tone, etc)
- personal reflections

You may keep track of your notes in a notebook, through Google Docs, on post-its in your book, or on a piece of paper. Once you have finished reading, you will need to discuss your findings in either a paragraph or list. Be sure to include textual evidence and/or reasoning that supports your notes and ideas. **The annotations/notes and response that you write will be your first grade when you return in September, so be sure to put forth your best effort.**

I have included a list of memoirs you can choose from for your summer reading assignment. Feel free to Google the different titles until you find a book that interests you. Please note, many of the books do contain mature content. **You must email me your choice no later than Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.** If there is a title not on this list that you wish to read, you may email that to me as well.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and enjoy the selection you choose!

Happy Reading!

~Ms. Scheps

*Additional Note: If you read any other books this summer, which I highly encourage and suggest, please keep a list of them to share with me when you return in September.*

**TO DO:**

1. Pick a memoir and email me your choice by 7/31.
2. Read and annotate either in your book or using another note taking system.
3. Write a response based on your reading.
4. Bring your book and work in when you come back to school in September.

## **Suggested Memoir Titles**

<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Author</u></b>	<b><u>Title (continued)</u></b>	<b><u>Author (cont.)</u></b>
<i>127 Hours</i>	Ralston	<i>Persepolis (Graphic)</i>	Statrapo
<i>A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me</i>	Schmidt	<i>Popular</i>	Van Wagenen
<i>A Long Way Gone</i>	Beah	<i>Positive</i>	Rawl
<i>After The Wall</i>	Hensel	<i>Red and Me</i>	Russell
<i>Americanized</i>	Saedi	<i>Red Scarf Girl</i>	Jiang
<i>Bad Boy</i>	Myers	<i>Relish</i>	Knisley
<i>Beautiful Boy</i>	Sheff	<i>Rocket Boys</i>	Hickman
<i>Boy</i>	Dahl	<i>Sharp</i>	Fitzpatrick
<i>Breaking Night</i>	Murray	<i>Somewhere There is Still a Sun</i>	Gruenbaum
<i>Candy Freak</i>	Almond	<i>Soul Surfer</i>	Hamilton
<i>Caught By the Sea</i>	Paulsen	<i>Stick Figure</i>	Lori Gotleib
<i>Chinese Cinderella</i>	Mah	<i>Swimming to Antarctica</i>	Cox
<i>Don't Let's Go Out With The Dogs</i>	Fuller	<i>The Abracadabra Kid</i>	Fleishman
<i>Dwarf</i>	DiDonato	<i>The Boy on the Wooden Box</i>	Leyson
<i>Educated</i>	Westover	<i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i>	Kamkwamba
<i>Eleven Rings</i>	Jackson	<i>The Burn Journals</i>	Runyon
<i>Facing The Lion</i>	Lekuton	<i>The Circuit</i>	Jimenez
<i>Fighting Fire</i>	Paul	<i>The Diary of Ma Yan</i>	Yan
<i>Ghosts of War</i>	Smithson	<i>The Glass Castle</i>	Jeanette Walls
<i>Gorillas In The Mist</i>	Fossey	<i>The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid</i>	Bryson
<i>Hard to Grip</i>	DeAndreis	<i>The Power of Half</i>	Salwen
<i>Hey Kiddo</i>	Krosoczka	<i>The Pregnancy Project</i>	Rodriguez
<i>Hole in My Life</i>	Gantos	<i>The Reading Promise</i>	Ozma
<i>How Angel Peterson Got His Wings</i>	Paulsen	<i>The Skin Between Us</i>	Ragusa
<i>I Am Malala</i>	Yousafzai	<i>The Warrior's Heart</i>	Greitens
<i>I Will Plant You A Lilac Tree</i>	Hillman	<i>The Wilder Life</i>	McClure
<i>Into the Wild</i>	Krakauer	<i>The Year We Disappeared</i>	Busby
<i>Into Thin Air</i>	Krakauer	<i>Thinking in Pictures</i>	Grandin
<i>Jerk, California</i>	Friesen	<i>This Star Won't Go Out</i>	Earl
<i>Knucklehead</i>	Scieszka	<i>Three Little Words</i>	Rhodes Courter
<i>King of the Mild Frontier</i>	Crutcher	<i>Throwing Strikes</i>	R.A. Dickie
<i>Laughing at My Nightmare</i>	Burcaw	<i>To Timbuktu</i>	Scieszka
<i>Learning Joy From Dogs Without Collars</i>	Summer	<i>Travels With Charley</i>	Steinbeck
<i>Life Animated</i>	Suskind	<i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i>	Albom
<i>Marley and Me</i>	Grogan	<i>Tweak</i>	Sheff
<i>Mountains Beyond Mountains</i>	Kidder	<i>Ugly</i>	Hoge
<i>My Life in Dog Years</i>	Paulsen	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>	Beals
<i>My Thirteenth Winter</i>	Abeel	<i>We Beat the Street</i>	Sampson et al
<i>No Summit Out of Sight</i>	Romero	<i>We Should Hang Out Sometime</i>	Sundquist
<i>Outcasts United</i>	St. John	<i>Within Reach</i>	Pfetzer