



Baccalaureate School for Global Education

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Kelly J. Johnson, Principal

Ines Loveras, AP (Assigned)

MANDATORY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT Incoming 7th grade students

June 2010

Dear students and families,

We look forward to welcoming you to the BSGE community in September. As I know you will soon see, we have a wonderful time working and playing together.

It is well documented in the research* that summer is a time when gains made during the school year can be lost. In order to ensure that you come to school ready to work towards and achieve the high academic expectations we have for you, we want to give you a short reading assignment for the summer. **The assignment is mandatory and will be used in class during the first week of school.** Please do not save it for August!

1. Read one book from each column.
2. For each of the two required books, complete a double entry journal (examples on the back of this sheet). To do a double entry journal, choose a quote that stands out to you (for any reason). Then explain, in your own words, what the quotes makes you think about. If you look carefully at the examples and do your best, you will probably get it right. The six books are easily available in most libraries and bookstores. We encourage you to read more than the minimum, from the list or any other books.

<p>Read one Fiction book from the column below:</p> <p><i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian</i>, by Sherman Alexie, Ellen Forney (illustrator) Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.</p> <p><i>The Thief Lord</i>, by Cornelia Funke Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious character who calls himself the "Thief Lord".</p> <p><i>Sunrise over Falujah</i>, by Walter Dean Myers Robin's parents aspire for him to go to college, but following September 11, he feels compelled to join the Army instead. By early 2003, Robin has completed Basic Training and is deployed to Iraq where he becomes part of a Civil Affairs Unit charged with building the trust of the Iraqi people to minimize fighting.</p> <p>All reviews excerpted from www.goodreads.com or www.amazon.com</p>	<p>Read one book of Non-fiction from the column below</p> <p><i>Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time</i>, by Greg Mortenson. <u>Read either the Young Reader's edition or the original adult version.</u> In 1993, while climbing one of the world's most difficult peaks, Mortenson became lost and ill, and eventually found aid in the tiny Pakistani village of Korphe. He vowed to repay his generous hosts by building a school.</p> <p><i>Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster</i>, by Jon Krakauer This will be the most exciting edge-of-your-seat true-life adventure story you may ever read. He was fortunate to be at the right place and the right time in history to document this tale of the human condition with insight, thoroughness, and clarity.</p> <p><i>The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids: The Secrets Behind What You Eat</i>, by Michael Pollan. <u>There is also an adult version of this book; we want you to read the kids' edition.</u> "What's for dinner?" seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes.</p>
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I wish you an enjoyable summer and look forward to working with you in September.

Kelly J. Johnson

* "Active Summer, Active Minds: Educators Seek Ways to Prevent Learning Losses During Vacation" *Washington Post*, 15 June 2009.

"2009 New York Statewide Summer Reading Program: Research / Promoting Literacy"

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>.

Johns Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning, www.summerlearning.org/

Double Entry Journal Example and Instructions

Do 10 for each book. Hand-write or type your responses.

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

#1 Copy down a quote from the text that you find:

Significant or striking, or that puzzles you, or that makes you think of interesting connections, or makes you pause for some other reason. Your chosen quote could be one that made you use one of the thinking strategies. Write the page number.

Example.

“A growing demand and “need” for technology/ instant gratification will soon make certain forms of entertainment and enlightenment intolerable and of no use.” (45).

Write a response to the quote. If it is complex, you should first paraphrase it. Explain why it is interesting, your observations, what connections you make, what questions you have, whether you agree or not and why. (You do not need to do all this, but do write in detail; “talk” with the text). Try to write at least ½ page for each response.

Example: We are all becoming dependent on newer and newer forms of tech. and we want what we want NOW! This is so true. Why read a book when you can download the main points from off the Internet. My mom got one of those “city tour” programs on her iphone and on our last vacation, we just followed it around. I can honestly say that we didn’t notice half the cool stuff there was to see because we were so focused on following the itinerary on the iphone. If we turn every function we once had to perform ourselves into a machine based thing we’ll soon lose interest and understanding for certain things. We won’t appreciate the simple things in life (like this summer reading assignment that I’m doing on my roof-top with a giant bowl of cut up watermelon next to me and my dog licking up the hunk of ice I brought up for her)

2 Quote:

“... our parents and our relatives always made us get dressed up...” (7).

Response

Again, we see the importance of Mexico for Rios. He likes the Mexican culture more than American. His family is more Mexican than American and whenever there is an important event, it’s the Mexican culture that they want to highlight. This is exactly like my family. I don’t even know how to wear a sari properly, but my mother insists that I wear one whenever there’s a festival or family gathering. I used to keep asking why I can’t just wear jeans, but now I kind of understand that we would just lose this part of our culture if parents didn’t insist on having their kids follow it. It would be lame if I became an adult and had no clue of how to wear a sari. Even though it is sometimes irritating, I am glad I have another culture that I am part of.