

Dear Whittier Family,

June 15, 2018

Next year your child will be an eighth grade ELA student. Reading is a central focus of our classes at Whittier. Reading is a skill and the only way for children to get better at reading is to read. This holds true for all kinds of readers. With this in mind, we're requesting that all of our students read at least **two books** before the first day for 8th graders on Thursday, August 30.

Here's how to do the assignment:

1. **Read and review at least two books** before Thursday, August 30, 2018. Please don't binge read at the very end of the summer. It would make sense to read one book for July and one for August.

2. **Include the following information in your review:**

- a. underlined title of the book
- b. full name of the author of the book
- c. setting (time and location) of the book
- d. main character
- e. major conflict (problem) of the book
- f. some examples of ways in which the main character confronts (faces or struggles with) the conflict (problem)
- g. give the book a rating:
 - ***** = This is the best book I've ever read!
 - **** = A great book
 - *** = Average book
 - ** = Not such a great book
 - * = This is the worst book I've ever read!
- h. explain your rating.

Here's An Example Review:

The book Trapped by Michael Northrop takes place in a modern-day New England town during the winter time. The main character, Scotty Weems, finds himself trapped with a group of other students in his high school during a record-breaking blizzard. He and the other kids must locate food, find a way to stay warm, and figure out how to get along with each other in a time of high stress. At first, Scotty complains a lot and he doesn't think about much other than how he can impress one of the girls there. Soon, however, he realizes the seriousness of his situation and he switches into survival mode by trying to brainstorm ways to communicate with the outside world and, eventually, find a way to escape their situation.

*I'd give this book 3 stars (***) because it was an entertaining read. I liked the characters and the story was fast-paced. Still, I didn't like how the author left the characters at the end of the book and I wish that he had done more with the creepy character Elijah.*

3. **Submit your Review** by one of the following ways:

- a. Post your review on Google Classroom (BEST OPTION!) Here's the class code for our page: 121y4u7
- b. Email it to either Mrs. Wood or Ms. Swenson (cwood@rsu16.org or eswenson@rsu16.org)
- c. Write it out by hand and bring it to Open House Night or the first day of school.

Please use your local library, e-readers, used bookstores, the book collections of other kids in our school, or any other book source you might have to find a book that is a good fit for you. If you are struggling to find books, please let one of your teachers know ASAP.

Happy Reading!

Ms. Swenson
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