

June 2018

Dear Rising 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student:

In order to maintain and improve your reading skills, you will be required to read THREE (3) books over the summer and to respond to them in several different EASY ways. This summer you will have TWO REQUIRED books to read, plus another book OF YOUR CHOICE (on your reading level, please!). This assignment, plus the list of books you read, is due the first week of English class. This will be your first literature grade of the year! Happy summer! Happy reading!

The first **required book** is *Goodbye, Vietnam* by Gloria Whelan. I have a few copies, or you can get a copy from a bookstore, online, or the public library. If you choose to borrow one of my copies for the summer, you will be responsible for keeping it in good condition and for returning it to me when you return to school in the fall.

*Goodbye, Vietnam* is a fictional account of a modern Vietnamese family who is forced to flee their country due to political unrest. Mrs. Fischetti and I feel that this is an important book to read to get you thinking about the world around you. Unfortunately, today our world is filled with children like Mai, Anh, and Thant who are the innocent victims of the adult conflicts around them. As you read *Goodbye, Vietnam*, think about the similarities and differences between YOUR life and Mai's life. Even though it is a relatively short book, you should read this book carefully. The work that you turn in for it will be graded. Most private high schools have a required book to read each summer, so this will be good practice for you in preparing for high school.

The second **required book** is *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. We will be studying Greek mythology in class this year, and this will be a great book to get you "into" the study! If you have already read this book, then read either another book in his *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series or re-read this book! Either way, you can't go wrong with his modern re-telling of the ageless classic tale! (As an extra perk, you can watch the movie, as well! Just be sure to read the book first because there are some differences!)

Writing Requirements:

1. Keep a list of ALL the books you read this summer, and turn this list in with your assignments. Put a \* by any books you *especially* like and think I should read, too!
2. For *Goodbye, Vietnam*, please make a mindmap of Mai's life, both before the family has to flee, and during their journey to freedom. Include people, places, and the culture (food, clothing, holidays, music, religion, superstitions, etc) that is presented. Make it colorful and use both words and images!

3. For *The Lightning Thief*, choose **ONE** of the following projects that you feel you can do the best job with creating:
- On page 1 of the book it asks you to, “recognize yourself in these pages.” Write a 3 paragraph paper to show how you recognize yourself in this book. You may recognize yourself in Percy’s actions, the events of the book, or any other way possible. Make those connections and “see yourself” in the pages of the book!
  - Make a mindmap of The Underworld! Include pictures and descriptions for each part of the Underworld. Use evidence from the text, and you may add other pictures as well. Make sure that your mindmap of the Underworld goes in the correct order according to the findings in the book.
  - Imagine you have just discovered that **you** are a half-blood. What cabin do you think you will end up in at Camp Half Blood? What are the possibilities? Write **THREE** separate creative journal entries describing your arrival and discovery of your true parentage.
  - NOTE:** You may **ONLY** choose this option **IF YOU HAVE NEVER READ ANY OF THE BOOKS IN THIS SERIES!!!** This book is the first in a series. Luke is still at large, Cronos is growing stronger, and Percy is about to step out into the world as the acknowledged son of Poseidon. What will happen next? Like the Oracle, make four predictions about the next book. What will happen in it? Share your predictions, the clues that support them, and create a chart showing what you think are the most likely upcoming events.
  - World War II is revealed in the book to actually have been triggered by an epic battle between the gods. How can a modern event be explained by the gods? Pick a current event — an earthquake, a battle, or even a surprising celebrity love affair — and explain how the gods were really behind it. You can present your explanations as a television newscast!
4. The **BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE** must be on your reading level (no skimping by with easy-reader books)! After reading the book of your choice, please write me a **LETTER** in which you explain **WHY YOU CHOSE** the book that you read, why you either loved or hated it, and whether you would recommend it to anyone else to read.

**Happy Summer!! Happy Reading!!!**

Mrs. W