A.D. Henderson Middle School Literacy Department Summer 2016

Dear Parents and Incoming 7th Grade Students,

Reading is a lifelong skill that needs to be nurtured and practiced regularly. What better way to do this than to enjoying a great book on summer vacation!

All incoming seventh grade students will be required to choose one of the following books: Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper, A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park and if you are looking for a challenge you can read Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez. All students will need to complete the Summer Book Scavenger Hunt, an assignment designed to develop students' critical reading skills. Please complete this assignment on a Google Document in font size 12, Times New Roman. This assignment will be due on the first day of school and will be vital to discussions during the first week. In addition, all seventh graders will be required to complete an informational essay. Please choose either a vacation destination you are visiting this summer or would dream of visiting in the future. Read and annotate at least 3 articles to the best of your ability. Once annotated please compose a typed informational essay. These essays will be due the first Friday of the week back. (8/19). Assistance will be given during the first week of school to give the students ample time to complete the essay.

The assignment will be available on the school website. Mrs. Rubin will be available to answer any questions that you may have. During the summer months, please direct your questions to Mrs. Rubin's e-mail, and she will return your message. (rubinn@fau.edu)

Have a terrific, well-rested, and well-read summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rubin
7th/8th Language Arts

Summer Reading Scavenger Hunt Directions: Complete the tasks below thoroughly and in paragraph form.

Title of Novel/Author:

1. Characterization

- a. (1 point) Identify a character from the novel that could be considered a best friend.
- b. (3 point) Explain why he/she could be a best friend. Identify a character trait that this character has that would make him/her a best friend. Use direct textual evidence by using quotation marks and page numbers to support your analysis.
- c. (3 points) Explain how the textual evidence supports your reason as to why the character could be a best friend.

2. Setting

- a. (1 point) Identify one of the main settings in the novel.
- b. (1 point) Argue whether this is an ideal setting. Is this a place you would consider visiting? Why or why not?
- c. (2 points) Identify textual evidence that supports whether the setting is ideal by directly quoting the text using quotation marks and page numbers.
- d. (3 points) Explain how the textual evidence supports your reason as to whether the setting is or is not ideal..

3. Conflict

- a. (1 point) Identify the main conflict (internal and/or external) of the book. Decide whether it is man vs. man, man vs. society, man vs. nature, or man vs. self.
- b. (2 Points) Explain how the conflict is or is not resolved in the story and how it impacts the characters. Cite textual evidence by directly quoting the text using quotation marks and page numbers.
- c. (3 points) Explain how the textual evidence supports your reason for the conflict identified.
- d. (1 point) Finally, identify a song that would complement the conflict. For example, the song, Step by Step, sung by Whitney Houston, emphasizes that when people are overwhelmed with life's problems, they should tackle these problems one item at a time. This is an example of man vs. self.

- e. (2 points) Write an explanation of HOW the song relates to the conflict, i.e., how is the song connected to the conflict?
- 4. Theme The theme is the intended message that the author conveys to the reader in a story. It is a universal statement that applies to many situations in life, not just the specific story. The theme is illustrated in the story through the characters' thoughts, actions, interactions, and reactions. The theme is not just a topic (for example, love, friendship or confidence); it is what the novel shares about those ideas.
 - a. (1 point) Identify a theme in the novel.
- b. (3 points) Identify textual evidence that supports the theme by directly quoting the text using quotation marks and page numbers.
- c. (3 points) Explain how the textual evidence supports the theme you identified.