

Summer 2017

Hello, rising sixth graders! Congratulations on a successful finish to your school year, and welcome to Middle School. For your summer reading assignment, you are required to read *Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool. This is the story of Abileen Tucker who is sent to live in her father's hometown of Manifest, Kansas while he searches for work riding the rails. It is full of interesting characters, rich detail, and even a little mystery. I think you will love it. I highly recommend that you read with a purpose. This means annotating passages that will assist you in responding to the essay prompt below. Please read the assignment requirements carefully.

Some major themes for English 6 next year are the notions of **belonging and home**. Young or old, we all want to be accepted and belong to a community. As emerging Middle Schoolers, this is particularly relevant to you, and 12 year old Abileen is no different. Throughout the book she looks for what legacy her father left on the town of Manifest and wonders if she will ever be able to call Manifest home.

In a written response of about one typed page, discuss how Abileen comes to realize that she has finally found a home in Manifest. **Pay particular attention to ways in which she changes in terms of how she thinks, behaves, sees others, and understands herself from the beginning of the book to the end.** Refer to specific events, dialogue, and descriptions from throughout the novel (use some quotes if possible), and explain what these examples show about the character.

I will be evaluating your work based on the strength and originality of your **ideas**, your use of good **evidence (examples)** to support those ideas, and the **clarity and organization** of your writing.

All essays should be...

- carefully proofread
- 3-4 paragraphs long
- word-processed
- double-spaced
- 12 point font with one inch margins

**Due: The first week of class.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [ahogan@mphschool.org](mailto:ahogan@mphschool.org). Remember that you are welcome (encouraged, in fact!) to read lots of other books this summer. If you'd like some suggestions, feel free to email me.

Enjoy your summer!

Mrs. Hogan