

Summer 2017

Hello, rising seventh graders! Congratulations on a successful finish to your school year. For your summer reading assignment, you are required to read *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld. This book is the first in his steampunk series of the same name, which takes place in an alternate universe version of World War I. While the book is rather long, it is full of action and should keep you engaged from the start. 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.

A major theme for English 7 next year is the notion of **identity**. Identity is often defined as both the way we view ourselves and the way in which others perceive us. As young adults, you are in the process of trying to figure out who you are and where you fit in. Deryn and Alek, the protagonists in the book, are no different. Like you, they make choices in order to control how others perceive them.

Write an essay in which you describe how, by hiding their identities from others, both Deryn and Alek learn to view themselves differently. **Pay particular attention to ways in which each character grows or changes in terms of how he or she thinks, behaves, sees others, and understands him or herself and the world.** 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
- 4-5 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