

June 2017

Dear Rising Ninth Grader,

I hope you are enjoying your vacation and finding the time to get out and take advantage of all that summer has to offer!

For your summer reading assignment, choose one of the books from the list below. You have a variety of books to choose from (both fiction and nonfiction). You might look at each of these books at the library, at a bookstore, or online and read the back cover and several pages of each to determine which one you might enjoy.

Sherman Alexie – *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*

Homer Hickam – *Rocket Boys*

Nicole Krauss – *The History of Love*

Harper Lee – *To Kill a Mockingbird* (**if you are new to MPH ONLY**)

Laurie Halse Anderson - *Speak*

Jeannette Walls – *The Glass Castle*

Then, write a response to the prompt below. Your response should be at least two pages long, typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font.

Imagine that you have been asked to **write a letter** to an older relative or family friend about your summer reading book. Do not summarize your book beyond a brief description of it. Instead, explain what you liked and disliked about your book. Be sure to discuss your book in specific detail and to use **at least three direct quotes from your book** to illustrate or support your insights. As you explain your reactions to the book, focus on its literary aspects, such as the narrator, the tone, the imagery, characterization, setting, symbolism, and so on. What made the narrator annoying or likable? Was the tone sarcastic, nostalgic, hopeful, or something else? Did any imagery stand out? Why? Was there a memorable theme or idea? What did you take away from the book? Would you want to read another book by that author? It is not necessary to answer all of these questions; they are merely guidelines to focus your thinking and writing. Remember, the letter must convey what you **think** about the literary aspects; do not simply summarize them.

Your response will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Your insight on the reading
- The clarity of your writing
- The organization of your ideas
- The use of evidence from the text to support your ideas
- Careful review and revision of your writing

Be sure to include a salutation (greeting) and a closing for your letter, which is due the first full day of class when you return to school in September.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ahogan@mphschool.org. Be on the lookout for a letter from me later this summer about a summer reading book of my own! I look forward to working with you in the fall.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Hogan