

## **8th Grade:**

### **Welcome to 8th grade!**

**Hello everyone!** My name is **Ms. Rai** (pronounced Ray, like a sun ray) and I am so excited to meet with you and get to learn more about you and your interests! Over the next year I want us to explore more about the world around us and how history very much ties into the decisions we make as individuals, as a nation, and within the world today! The books I have chosen for our summer reading can be found in bookstores, online, as digital copies, or in libraries. Please choose one of the following books to read to help us prepare for next year!

Over the course of the next year we will be examining political and global issues facing our world today. The books I have selected below have been arranged by topic area of themes we will cover and discuss throughout our time together. Many of these topics have been under widespread debate and have been interwoven throughout the history of our nation and our world. The effects of climate change have caused widespread natural disaster in many countries leaving many, especially youth activists, wondering how we can sustain our global population. Immigration and division, a hotly contested subject, has left some families unsure of their place in a world with ever changing physical and legal boundaries. Indigenous culture and activism are finally on the global stage after centuries of erasure and silencing, but activists are still fighting for cultural and legal representation. Issues with law enforcement have been visibly on the rise with the invention of the cell phone camera as more and more footage has come to light, causing widespread outrage and argument over equality and order. Understanding global issues, as well as those that impact our daily lives in the United States will be key to understanding how our voices can impact the future of our world.

#### **8th Grade Summer Reading List:** (Choose ONE)

##### **Climate Change:**

- *World Without Fish* by [Mark Kurlansky](#)
- *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans* by [Don Brown](#)

##### **Immigration/Division:**

- *The Night Diary* by [Veera Hiranandani](#)
- *American Street* by [Ibi Zoboi](#)
- *A Night Divided* by [Jennifer A. Nielsen](#)
- *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by [Marjorie Agosin](#)

##### **Indigenous Voices:**

- *The Marrow Thieves* by [Cherie Dimaline](#)
- *My Name Is Not Easy* by [Debby Dahl Edwardson](#)

##### **Law Enforcement and Current Events:**

- *All American Boys* by [Jason Reynolds](#)
- *Dear Martin* by [Nic Stone](#)

**8th Grade Guiding Questions:** (Follow only the Guiding Questions that align with the topic you have chosen)

You do **NOT** have to answer these questions writing, but please think about them and keep them in mind as you read.

**Climate Change:**

- Why is climate change essential to our survival as humans in the future?
- Who does and does not experience the immediate effects of climate change? Why?
- Why is global warming and climate change not given more importance in society and in our political arenas?
- What steps should we make to give more importance to climate change in our society?

**Immigration/Division:**

- What causes or forces people to immigrate?
- What would be some possible benefits and drawbacks to immigration policies?
- How are families from all over the world experiencing immigration?
- Should our nation and our world rethink/update it's immigration policies given the effects of climate change, governmental oppression, and our current global epidemic crisis?

**Indigenous Voices:**

- Why is Indigenous history often forgotten about, silenced, or misrepresented?
- In what ways have Indigenous cultures and voices been mistreated or underrepresented?
- How has the United States in particular worked on it's relationship with Indigenous nations?
- How can we work to amplify Indigenous voices and activists globally?

**Law Enforcement and Current Events:**

- What issues do you know exist around law enforcement today?
- In what ways do our policing systems benefit and harm different communities?
- How do our experiences consciously and unconsciously shape how we see and act in the world?

Historically we have lived in an unequal world, what steps should we take in our government to ensure the voices and lives of minorities are given equal importance in our world?