

Dear Rising Eighth Grade,

Attached are grammar, reading, and writing assignments for you to complete over the summer. The assignments are meant to keep your skills sharp and to keep you thinking. In order for you to get the MOST from summer enrichment, you should spread both the reading and grammar out over the summer, rather than to squeeze it all in at the beginning or at the end. (Think about practicing for a sport over an entire season. You don't improve with all of your practice squeezed into a few days!) I suggest that you come up with a plan that will work for you, and do your very best to stick to it. Remember though, if you skip some days that you had planned to read or work on grammar, that will mean doing more than you had planned or perhaps doubling up on another day.

Please read the following required books during the summer.

1. *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse
2. *And Then There Were None* (aka *Ten Little Indians*) by Agatha Christie
3. _____, a book which I will specifically choose just for you

and

4. In addition, read a fourth book of your choice. (I will be so anxious to find out what each of you chose!)

Writing assignment: For the novel, *Out of the Dust*, please write a reaction (minimum of a paragraph) for any ten (10) of the "chapters." In each reaction, I would expect you to include your own feelings about Billie Jo's thoughts, feelings, experiences. What did the author achieve in you the reader? I also ask that you pay special attention to the author's choice of words. Her writing is simple, clear, and direct, yet Karen Hesse has a remarkable ability to insert her reader into Billie Jo's world. Comment on specific words and passages that "reach you."

For the book of your choice and for *And Then There Were None*, just read and enjoy. No other assignment until we return in September. (You should expect to write about each book during the first week, so please come back to school having **finished all four** books.)

Enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ohls