

June 2017

Dear Incoming 6th Grade Students and Families,

This summer the middle school teachers are asking each middle school student to read the same book selection. This book was brought to our attention by Mr. McGovern. His daughter read this book and couldn't put it down. The middle school teachers have all read it and had the same experience. We hope you love it as much as we did.

The book is called *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka, Martin Ganda, and Liz Welch. This is a summary of the book:

"The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from an impoverished city in Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever.

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of—so she chose it.

Martin was lucky to even receive a pen pal letter. There were only 10 letters, and 40 kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one.

That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives." Little Brown Library.com

It is our hope that by reading this book, OLL's middle school students will become more aware of the struggles kids face around the world to gain an education and struggle to escape poverty.

With that in mind, the summer reading final project is as follows:

1. Students will write a 3 paragraph response to the following questions:
 - a. In America all students are guaranteed an education, what have you learned about the struggle to gain an education in poor countries such as Zimbabwe? Does this change how you feel about your education?
 - b. Martin proves he is a hard worker. What could you learn from his examples? What do they make you appreciate? How do the examples change Caitlin?
 - c. What have you learned about the value of friendship? The friendship between Caitlin, Martin and Caitlin's family? Give specific examples from the story to illustrate these relationships. Make sure to include page #'s where you found the examples.

2. Do some research to come up with a possible service project in connection with this book. Some ideas for you to research are: pen pal organizations, schools to connect with in another country, organizations that support education in poverty stricken countries, organizations that support service projects in poor countries.

- a. Write a one paragraph proposal explaining:
 - i. The name of the organization & contact information (website, mailing address, etc.)
 - ii. The purpose of the organization
 - iii. The reason you are interested in supporting or being involved with this organization.

Requirements for this paper are:

- This should be **typed and double-spaced**.
- You should write at least **4 paragraphs**.
- Make sure you include the **page numbers** in your paper for the “evidence” to support your answers.
- Have someone **proofread** your paper before you turn it in.
- This paper will be due on the first day of school (you can turn it in earlier if you want). You can either turn this in printed out or you can share it with me on Google Drive at epierson@ollseattle.org.

Finally, you should read for fun over the summer. Attached you will find a reading log. Each student must read at least three books of their choice. There are great book lists on the Seattle Public Library’s website. Students must turn in their reading log on their first day back in the fall.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Please contact me via e-mail, epierson@ollseattle.org , with any questions about the attached information.

READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, READ!!!

Mrs. Pierson

Items due September 5th, 2017 Checklist:

_____ *4 Paragraph Response to novel*

_____ *Read 3 other novels of your choice and fill in Reading Log*

Name: _____

2017 SUMMER READING LOG

	Book Title and Author	Total # of Pages	Date Started	Date Completed	Parent Initials	Comments About the Book
1	<u>I Will Always Write Back</u> by Alifirenka, Welch, Ganda	396				
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

TURN THIS IN TO MRS. PIERSON SEPTEMBER 5, 2017, THE FIRST DAY OF 6TH GRADE.