

## SIXTH GRADE SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

### MS. SYLVESTER SAYS "READ, READ, READ!"

Your first task over the summer is to read at least 2 books and record them on the sheet attached. Do not stop at two books if you love to read! I encourage you to read to your heart's content, which is why I have left extra spaces on the sheet. Then, below your book list, there is a place for you and your parents to sign it: this is so that I know your parents are aware of what you have read over the summer.

It is difficult to enjoy a book that is much too hard or much too easy to read. Therefore, look carefully at a number of books before you choose one. If you are a slow reader, it is a good idea to plan ahead. You should feel free to drop a book which you do not enjoy and find a better one. Please do not pick a book you have already read.

If you have trouble finding a good book, use the two lists above to help you or access one of the other ones listed at the beginning. Reading is an excellent way to give your mental muscles a workout and a terrific way to relax! So enjoy your books. LETTER to Ms. Sylvester... Your second task is to write me a letter about yourself. I want to know as much as I can about you as a learner/student and how you see yourself in school. I'd also like to know about the things you are interested in outside of school. This will help me get to know you more quickly.

**LETTER TO MS. SYLVESTER:** Your letter should be 4 or 5 paragraphs long; some of you may want to tell me even more, and that's fine. Please write a paragraph (about 4 sentences in length) about each of the following topics:

- Start with a catchy opening sentence about yourself (in my letter to you I start with "If I could, I'd transform myself into a cat with the snap of my fingers!"). Then tell me about what you really enjoy doing in your free time. This can include things like: being outdoors or indoors, playing specific sports, taking care of animals, hanging out with friends, being with your family, cooking, camping, skate boarding, kite-flying, etc. Or this can include your hobbies, such as making model airplanes, making jewelry or collecting something special like minerals or stuffed animals.
- What is easiest for you in school? This can include subjects you enjoy (like reading, writing, science, math, history, art, music, sports, or drama) or, it can include things like being really good at class discussions, memorizing things, using computers, problem solving, working in groups, doing school projects, following directions, meeting due dates, taking tests or quizzes, or other things like that.
- What is hardest for you in school? Include specific subjects (math, writing, reading, history, etc.). Or, tell me about things like: listening in class, following directions, meeting due dates, sitting still for 40 minutes, staying organized, taking tests or quizzes, or working in groups, for example. Tell me how teachers or your parents have helped you in the past solve some of these problems. Or, tell me things you wish your teachers or your parents would do to help you solve these kinds of problems.
- What do you imagine yourself doing when you grow up? What kind of job (or jobs) would you like to try? (When I was in eighth grade I imagined myself becoming a marine biologist, but instead I became a jeweler and then a teacher.) Where do you imagine yourself living -- somewhere warm year-round? near the mountains? in the city? in the country? in a foreign country?
- **Optional Paragraph:** What kinds of things do you wish your teachers knew about you as a person? Maybe you have had a piece of your writing published or you have won a special award. Maybe you have traveled across the U.S. or have lived in a foreign country. Maybe you have some very special family traditions that mean a lot to you. Tell me anything else you really want me to know about you.

**TWO DRAFTS:** Please do at least two drafts of your letter (the first draft is to get your ideas down on paper; the second one is revised and "cleaned up" for the reader). Staple the two drafts together with the "final" draft on top. If you use the computer, I would like you to write the first draft by hand. Begin the letter with "Dear Ms. Sylvester" and the date and then sign it with your name at the end.