

*Frances C. Richmond Middle School*  
63 Lyme Road \* Hanover, New Hampshire \* 03755

**To:** Upcoming Eighth Graders  
**From:** Eighth Grade English Teachers  
**Subject:** Summer Reading

June 20, 2011

Dear Rising 8th Grader,

Reading for fun is something most of you already do. Summer is the perfect time to catch up on reading you've postponed during the school year. We hope that you will find and read books that entertain and challenge you.

We would like you to read at least two books over the summer. To save paper, we are putting our list of recommended books on our website only. These suggestions come from teachers, the librarians, former eighth graders, and the American Library Association. You can look at the ALA top picks and both the Printz and ALEX award books for the last two years as well as searching our broad, cumulative list which contains a wide range of topics, genres and reading levels, hoping to inspire you to read a great deal. Some books on the list may have adult themes and language, quite typical of the "Young Adult" designation; we expect you to respect your family's guidelines on book selection, and we hope you will extend your reading comfort zone and challenge yourself as much as possible.

We hope you will search for many books that hold your interest. The most important thing is that you continue to read, even if it means discarding one book and moving on to another. Bookstores and libraries are great places to browse and find people who will give you suggestions that fit your interests and abilities. It's fine to include short story collections, poetry, essays, plays, or any type of nonfiction that interests you.

We would prefer that you not read the books that we will read together during the year: Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, and Elie Wiesel's *Night*, which you will read in social studies.

During the first week of school, you will be asked to respond to two of the books you've read - each teacher will have a different request. This will help us get to know you more quickly as readers. If you read a lot, please keep a list over the summer and bring it in on the first day of school. If reading is a challenge for you, this is a good time to get in the habit of reading even a little bit each day - it will make 8th grade much easier for you all around.

Have a wonderful summer!

*Mr. Goodling \* Jody Horan \* Mr. Ivanoski*