

June 11, 2009

Dear Class of 2013 Families,

Recreational reading is one of the most effective ways to develop verbal skills, and strong verbal skills help to ensure a student's success in school. The fifth grade summer reading program will foster these skills and ease the transition from summer back into school.

We ask that the entering fifth graders read a minimum of three books, one of which has been preselected for them, over the summer break. At the start of school, students should be prepared to write or speak about their three reading selections. It may be helpful to take notes in the books or keep a couple of index cards of notes to help remember important events and characters in the books. Of course, students are welcome to read more than the required reading!!

Prior to beginning fifth grade in the fall, students are required to read *Tuck Everlasting*, by Natalie Babbitt. Please find the enclosed project sheet. Each student must choose at least one project to complete over the summer and be ready to present at the beginning of the school year. The additional books should be selected from the enclosed list.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Gina Ashworth
5th grade teacher

Tuck Everlasting Project

Choose one of the following activities to complete after reading the book Tuck Everlasting. (You may complete additional activities to earn extra credit)

- Write a new ending! What if Winnie had not poured water on the toad? What if she had decided to drink the water when she was seventeen as Jesse had asked her to do? Write a new ending for the story.
- To Drink or Not to Drink. Winnie must have done a lot of thinking about whether or not to drink the water. As Winnie, describe your thoughts and feelings on your seventeenth birthday. What factors led to your decision? Are you confident that you are making the right choice?
- Forever. Brainstorm all the things you would do if you could live forever at an age of your choice. Would there be any disadvantages? Write an essay about your ideas.
- Write a letter. Write a letter to the Tucks asking them to share some of their water with you. Cite reasons to convince them that you deserve to live forever.
- Eternal Life. Choose a point of view and write a paragraph explaining why you think eternal life would be a blessing or a curse.
- Verdict. Create an opening argument to use in defense of Mae Tuck at her murder trial.

Fifth Grade Reading List

- From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E.L. Konigsburg
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH – Robert O'Brien
- The House with a Clock on its Walls – John Bellairs
- The Whipping Boy – Sid Fleischman
- Julie of the Wolves – Jean George
- A Wrinkle in Time – Madeline L'Engle
- Sounder – William Howard Armstrong
- The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis
- The Slave Dancer – Paul Fox
- Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond – Elizabeth Speare
- North to Freedom – Anne Holm
- Cricket in Times Square – G. Seldon
- Phantom Tollbooth – N. Juster
- Gulliver's Travels – Johnathan Swift
- The Incredible Journey – Sheila Burnford
- Trumpet of the Swan – E.B. White
- The Great Gilly Hopkins – Katherine Paterson
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Mark Twain
- All About Sam – Lois Lowry
- A Summer to Die – Lois Lowry
- The Indian in the Cupboard – L. Banks
- Bridge to Teribithia – Katherine Paterson
- The House of Dies Dreares – Virginia Hamilton
- Adventures of the Great Brain – John Fitzgerald
- The Twenty-One Balloons – William DuBois
- Red Badge of Courage – Stephen Crane
- Black Beauty – Anna Sevell
- A Door in the Wall – Marguerite de Angeli