**Gifted English I Summer Reading Due: Friday August 11th.**

**By August 11th, place your typed responses in the box outside room 214 or upload a copy in your Gifted English Schoology course. Responses should be double spaced in 12 Times font in MLA format. Make sure you include the title of the books you read in your responses. If you have any questions regarding the assignment, contact me at** [Alicia.stefanski@dcsms.org](mailto:Alicia.stefanski@dcsms.org)**. Do not forget, you also have an off semester reading assignment (on the back of this sheet) that is due Jan. 5th. Pick up another copy of the off semester reading when you drop off your summer reading. Or locate both assignments on my website.**

Students are encouraged to read **many** books this summer. There is a strong correlation between reading regularly for pleasure (any reading...really, ANY reading, as long as it’s a habit) and academic success, including building vocabulary, an understanding of sentence structure, and an increase in stamina for reading harder texts. It is also clear that the more you read the better you write. So, this summer don’t stop reading. Try to read at least 30 minutes a day.

**I. Read a fiction book that is at least 150 pages. The book should be of appropriate rigor and subject matter for high school students (For instance, *Hatchett, Diary of Wimpy* Kid are not appropriate for this assignment). Students should have not read the book before. Compose a letter of 200 words to a character in the book. Be sure to include the title of the book you read. It should be evident that you read the book in your response- include specific textual evidence either paraphrase or quotes. Students who have the same answer or students who plagiarize will receive a zero for the assignment.**

*Things to consider in your letter to a character*

Imagine sitting down with a character and sharing your personal thoughts about the book. Your letter should be personal and sincere, more like a private conversation rather than book report or a fan letter. Share specific details both about the book and about your reaction to the book. For instance, what did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before? What did you realize about yourself as a result of reading this book? Why was this work meaningful to you?

Keep in mind that this is a reflective writing and that means you need to think about what you read and the meaning you gleaned from the character. *Do not summarize the book’s plot!* Only YOU can explain that unique relationship you experienced while reading the book.

**II.** **For this portion of the summer reading, students should read a nonfiction memoir/autobiography/biography, inspirational, spiritual, motivational, or self-help book of approximately 150 pages that they have not read before.**

Searching one of these genres or searching the above genres with the addition of teenager will yield numerous titles. Parents may want to help students select a book that best fits the students’ needs/interest*.* For instance, a student may want to read a biography on a historical figure or musician and think about what he/she can learn from that person’s success and mistakes.

After reading the selection, students should write 200 words answering the appropriate questions that follow while incorporating textual evidence. If it is not evident that you read the book, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Evidence that you read the book could be how a quote, situation, or an insight could apply to your audience. Students who have the same answer or students who plagiarize will receive a zero for the assignment.

**Think about who is the perfect audience for this book. Be sure to include the title of the book in your response. Write a letter to this fictional entity who would benefit the most from reading this book. How would this book benefit him/her? What could he/she learn from the book? How could he/she apply what you learned in the book to his/her life.**