June, 2017

Dear Class of 2019,

I have heard many great things about this class and I am excited to be your teacher. Next year, we will study Medieval history, systems of power, literature, poetry, the writing process, and world geography. I am especially excited to explore world cultures as they emerged in Medieval times and continue to develop today. It's going to be a fantastic year of exploration and learning.

Your summer reading assignment is to read two books: #1 and #2 are **Required** and the third book is optional.

1. *The Alchemist* by Paolo Coelho

2. Choose between *The Giver* by Lois Lowry or *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys

3. A third book is optional. If you choose to read it and write a reflection paragraph, you will earn extra credit: (choose from fiction, mystery, biography, science fiction)

Please read the novels and complete the following activities. Your responses are due on the first day of school. This is your first graded assignment of 7th grade so please do not leave it to the last minute. Plan out how much you need to read each day or each week. Write take brief chapter notes (bullet points) immediately after completing a chapter. And be thoughtful and detailed in your reflection and your letter to me. If you have any questions as you complete this independent reading and reflection, please email me at aquezada@sfschool.org. I will be happy to respond when possible.

Be prepared to return to class in the fall ready to discuss your books and these questions in particular.

Your first task is to find the books. They are available at your local bookstore or through Amazon. Ideally, you will get actual books (not ebooks) so that you can write in them, make notations, ask questions, etc. You may also find them at your local library and use post-its for your notes. Then, bring them with you on the first day of school as we will be using them from day one, for comprehension, discussion, and writing activities.

Have a great summer and may you find many moments to play, read, relax, and enjoy!

All my best,

Araceli

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT:

1. <u>Read each novel</u>. As you read, stop at the end of each chapter and **take brief (bullet points) notes for each chapter**. Note important characters, events, conflicts, and any questions you might have about the story or the characters.

2. <u>*Reflect:*</u> Think about what *The Alchemist* was about and how it affected you. *(One paragraph)*

   1. *The Alchemist* is a story that takes you on an adventure from Spain to Northern Africa. The main character, Santiago, embarks on a journey in which he must face many challenges that help him figure out his destiny.

   2. *Between Shades of Gray* is historical fiction based on true experiences in Lithuania in 1941. We often only hear about what was going on in Germany at this time, so this novel is a different voice that helps us to further understand what people live through during times of war.

3. *The Giver* is a story about a special community that prides itself on everyone being the same. The main character, Jonas, receives a special job, as a keeper of memories. There is much to discover about the community and about Jonas' special gifts. I understand some of you read this book or it was read to you before. If you haven't read it in the last year, I would like you to read it on your own.

4. <u>Free Choice:</u> If there is a particular book that you are eager to read, here is your chance to include it as your 3rd summer reading selection. Keep in mind it must be a novel (no comics or graphic novels) and it should fall in one of the following genres: fiction, mystery, biography, or science fiction.

3. <u>Write a letter addressed to me</u> in which you tell me about one of your all-time favorite books. What happens in this story? Who are the characters? What is the setting? Why do you like it so much? Give me three reasons why I should read it too!

Summer Reading Assignment Rubric	
The Alchemist chapter notes	25
The Alchemist Reflection	25
Between Shades of Gray or The Giver chapter notes	25
<u>Letter Addressed to Araceli</u>	25
Total Points	100