

To: Middle School Students and Parents
From: Jim Storms, English Teacher
Subject: **Summer Reading**

For students entering 5th grade:

- 1) Students are required to read *Windcatcher* by Avi.
- 2) Students are also expected to read at least **2 books of their own choosing**.

For students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades:

- 1) In addition to their required book (see below), students are expected to read at least **4 books of their own choosing**. These do NOT have to be on the TCS Reading List.
- 2) Students must fill out a Summer Reading Record for each of the 4 books and bring them to school on opening day.
 - a. These records will constitute the **first major grade** for English.
 - b. One or more of these 4 books will be **used for a project or paper** during the first weeks of school.
- 3) The [TCS Reading List](#) and the [Summer Reading Record](#) are available on the **TCS website** and at the Farmhouse.

Required Reading

In addition to the 4 personally selected books, students in grades 6, 7, and 8 must read a required book. This book is the basis for initial class discussions.

Students do **NOT** have to fill out a Summer Reading Record for their required books.

It is suggested that they read these books near the end of the summer so they will be familiar with them as school begins. These books are listed below with a few suggestions for students to keep in mind as they read.

Students entering Grade 6: *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park

Since the theme for 6th Grade English is Heroes, it would be good to think about whether or not you feel Tree Ear is a hero. This story takes place in 11th or 12th Century Korea. It's about a young man learning to become a potter. What qualities does a hero possess? Do you find any of these in Tree Ear?

Students entering Grade 7: *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

Since the theme for 7th Grade English is Diversity, think about this story of a very independent girl in a new high school situation fits the theme.

Students entering Grade 8: *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer* by Irene Gut Opdyke (with Jennifer Armstrong)

The 8th Grade theme is Power and Its Abuses. This memoir is a true account of how this young woman in Poland helped rescue Jews who were running from Hitler's forces.