

June 15, 2022

Dear In-coming 6th Grade Students,

Welcome to Middle School! This is an exciting time for you and as your homeroom teacher I am looking forward to working with you to create a positive and supportive homeroom environment. Initially we will spend time becoming acclimated to middle school routines and expectations. In this way our day to day tasks and activities will run smoothly and enjoyably. As your language arts and literature teacher I will be presenting lessons which are meaningful and interesting. We will be reading and analyzing different types of literature (fiction, non-fiction, drama, poetry) and we will be writing for many different purposes.

This year's summer reading novel is *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor.. As you read the novel, identify the main character and the setting. Keep in mind the obstacles or conflicts the main character faces. We will begin literature class by discussing and analyzing *The Cay* in depth.

For your summer **writing assignment**, I am asking you to:

- **Describe the two main characters - Phillip and Timothy.** In a paragraph format of at 5 sentences - tell a little about Phillip; then in a second paragraph - tell a little about Timothy. A character description can include physical traits as well as personality traits.
- Next, **describe the setting** (setting includes time and place). Most of the story takes place on a small cay and it is set during WWII. Describe the place aspect of the setting using direct evidence from the story and in your own words. You may also include weather in your description if you choose.
- Finally, **describe one of the conflicts (problems) the characters face** in the story. This can be done in 2 paragraphs (about 8-10 sentences). Some questions you may want to answer after you describe the problem can include: Was the conflict resolved by the end of the story? If so, how was it resolved? Did the character change by the end of the story as a result of facing this conflict and if so, how did he change. Remember there are many conflicts (problems) the character needs to overcome but you only have to focus on one of the conflicts.

You may bring your written assignment about *The Cay* with you on the **second day** of school or you may email it to me anytime at: [amonticello@sjsf.dfrcs.org](mailto:amonticello@sjsf.dfrcs.org). If you bring your assignment with you to school, it can be hand-written or typed.