

**Dear Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade,**

This summer, you are required to read 4 books and complete various assignments related to each book. There are two books that are required reading, as each will be presented and discussed the first week of School in September. After choosing your 3<sup>rd</sup> book from the list below, you are welcome, as requested by you, to choose your own book or choose from the selection listed below.

**Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan**

**\*required — we will discuss together in September**

Write an interpretive essay on major themes present in this book. Destiny, hope, and music all weave together as themes in this amazing story. Your interpretive essay must have an introductory paragraph, 3 or more body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph. Please write 3 different themes, one for each body paragraph. If you believe there are different themes present in this book other than the ones listed above, please explore and explain how each theme is present in the story. Please title your essay. Do a rough draft, edit it yourself, and write a final draft.

Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, and two pages long.

**Becoming: Adapted for Young Readers by Michelle Obama**

**\*required — we will discuss together in September with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade (*consider reading this book last so it is fresh in your mind for our discussion the first week of school*)**

A biography is a firsthand account written by the author about their own life so far. It offers a central message from the author directly. For this book, please write a report outlining the overall message of Becoming, what you learned about the former First Lady herself, and how her story impacted you and has the potential to continue to influence the world around us. Were there certain stories from her life that inspired you? Please write about your experience reading this book in a 5-paragraph book report. Do not simply retell what Mrs. Obama has written, but explain the significance of her story. Find yourself in her story, tell me what you can relate to.

**Please choose one book from the list below. You may also choose one book of your own to read, for a total of 4 books!**

For the final two books you read please get creative and create an artistic representation of the story in any way you see fit.

Possibilities include: creating a storyboard, a colorful, illustrative book jacket, a chart of the symbolism found in the story, an intricate and colorful “family tree” of key characters, animation, a visual map of key events,

extra chapters of any book in graphic novel form, etc. Please be creative and imaginative, just like the stories you will read.

### **Summer Book List To Choose From**

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Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

The Million Dollar Race by Matthew Ross Smith

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)

Stir It Up by Ramin Ganeshram

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Lockwood & Co (Book 1) by Jonathan Stroud

The Amulet of Samarkand (A Bartimaeus Novel Book 1) by Jonathan Stroud

The Midwinter Witch by Molly Knox Ostertag