

*Required Summer Reading  
for students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade in September*

Over the summer you will be required to complete **TWO** assignments. These assignments will be counted in the first marking period language arts grade.

Assignments **will not** be accepted after Friday, September 5.

Format for typed assignments:

Times New Roman, 12 point, double spaced, proper heading

**ASSIGNMENT # 1**

**All students are required to read:** *Nothing But The Truth* by Avi  
*There will be a reading comprehension test on Friday, September 5.*

Please select **ONE** of the following to complete:

**A. Rewrite two scenes**

In order to change the outcome of this story, rewrite two chapters in their entirety. One of the chapters you must rewrite is the last chapter in the book. Remember to make the dialogue sound natural. You may want to record yourself and a friend reading the scene you write to make it sound natural. Each chapter should be at least one page typed for a minimum of two typed pages.

**B. Timeline**

Create a timeline that shows ten (10) major events. Your timeline should include a detailed drawing, showing the action in the scene. In addition to each drawing, you must include a 50 word minimum summary of the scene. In your summary, discuss how each scene affects the story line.

**C. Essay**

Each character's actions affect many other people in this story, such as their friends, teachers, students, parents, or even themselves. Write an essay that focuses on how Philip, Miss Narwin, and Philip's parents have caused others to feel bad, or feel hurt. Also discuss how the truth in the story could have been made known to all the characters. Minimum one page typed essay.

**D. Letter**

Write a letter to an editor of the newspaper of your choice, or to the host of the radio talk show that reported the incident at Harrison High, expressing your feelings about how the reporter, publisher, or show handled the coverage of this incident. Tell the editor whether or not the incident should have been in the news, whether it was presented accurately and fairly, and whether the story did more good than harm. Your letter must be a minimum of one typed page and be in standard letter format.

## **ASSIGNMENT # 2**

Read a book of your choosing and select **ONE** of the following to complete:

**A. Create an illustrated booklet of life lessons that a fictional character has learned or can share.**

If the main character of your book were to have written a pocket guide to life, what five lessons or instructions would he/she have included? Address such topics as overcoming obstacles, disappointment, love, education, and friendship. Write a short paragraph for each lesson, explaining how they can help people learn life's hardest lessons. Can you connect these lessons to your own life?

**B. Create a travel brochure for the setting of the book you read this summer.**

Include points of interest around the town. Where do tourists generally visit when they travel there? There should be a total of 6 places for tourists to visit with a short blurb written about each one. Try to create the voice of a travel guide as you use the research you've found to create descriptions about each location. The brochure should have a cover with the name of a tour company, and inside with 6 total stops and explanations. What you choose to be on the back is up to you.

**C. Write a book review.**

Although there is no single correct way to write a book review, please keep in mind that a book review is NOT a book report. The reader of your book review wants to know if the book is something he/she would enjoy, and why. State the title and author's name. Highlight what the story was about –but don't tell the end! What did you like best about the book and why? How does it compare to similar books that you have read? Who would enjoy reading this book? Make sure your review explains how you feel about the book and why, not just what the book is about. A good review should express the reviewer's opinion and persuade the reader to share it, to read the book, or to avoid reading it. Minimum one typed page.

**D. Create a soundtrack in one of two ways.**

1. Select 5 important moments in the novel. For each event select a song that you think fits the scene (either because there is an emotional connection between the lyrics and the story OR the music itself enhances the mood – aggressive, sad, etc). You must explain your selections in at least 1 paragraph per song. 5 paragraph minimum.
2. Create a soundtrack that captures the journey of one of the main characters throughout the book. You must have a minimum of 4 songs. For each song that you include, you must explain in at least 1 paragraph per song why the lyrics fit the experiences and emotions of the character.

**\*\*\* All songs must be burned to a single disc. Make a cover for your CD.\*\*\***

Enjoy reading and have a great summer!

Mrs. Grover 