May 2022

Dear Rising 8th Grade Student:

In order to maintain and improve your reading skills, you will be required to read **three (3) books** over the summer and to respond to them in several different EASY ways. This summer you will have **ONE REQUIRED** book to read, plus **TWO books OF YOUR CHOICE** (on your reading level, please!).

The **required book** is ***The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan** (the author of *The Lightning Thief* from last summer’s reading list!) We will be starting off the school year this fall with a study of Norse mythology, and this will be a great book to get you “into” the Viking culture! If you have already read this book, then read either another book in Riordan’s *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* series or re-read this book! Either way, you can’t go wrong with this modern re-telling of the ageless classic tale! (As an extra perk, you can also watch the *Thor* movie from the *Avengers* movie franchise!)

Be sure to read your summer books carefully. The work that you turn in for them **will be graded**. Most private high schools have a list of required books to read each summer, so this will be good practice for you in preparing for high school. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT. This assignment, plus the list of books you read, is **due the first week of English class**. This will be your first literature grade of the year!

Writing Requirements:

1. Keep a list of ALL the books you read this summer, and turn this list in with your assignments. Put a \* by any books you *especially* like and think I should read, too!
2. For *The Sword of Summer,* **choose ONE** of the following projects that you feel you can do the best job with. Be as creative as you can be with this assignment! After all, you want to impress the gods!

Your choices:

* 1. ​Select a favorite scene from *The Sword of Summer* and create a social media platform (TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, or Facebook, for example), to retell the scene as a series of social media posts from one of the characters involved.

OR

* 1. In the *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* series, preparing for battle is an ongoing pastime of those residing in Valhalla, and a driving force for the characters. The Norse people are famous in history for being fierce warriors who terrified those who might fall to one of their raids. Using library and/or Internet resources, discover more about Norse warriors, being sure to investigate:
* Attire (what did these warriors wear?)
* Symbols of power
* Weapons
* Modes of transportation
* Additional facts you found fun or interesting

Create a poster or diorama that shows what you learned about the Norse as

warriors.

OR

* 1. In the opening of *The Sword of Summer,* readers learn about Leif Erikson’s statue in Boston and Uncle Randolph’s strong belief of a Norse presence and influence in the area. As a famous researcher, you have been hired by Uncle Randolph to do some digging to learn about New England’s Viking connections. Be sure to consider:
* Did the Vikings actually come to North America?
* What evidence (if any) is there?
* What makes their presence in North America important?
* What interesting or unusual things did you learn?

Create a journal or notebook of your findings. Include facts you discovered and

drawings of the objects you uncovered in your research. Be as creative as you

can with this assignment so that you impress Uncle Randolph!

1. The TWO BOOKS OF YOUR CHOICE must be on your reading level (no skimping by with easy-reader books. However, feel free to read different genres (like poetry, plays, or nonfiction), graphic novels, or Manga series!
2. For ONE of these two books, just enjoy. Seriously, just enjoy the experience of reading.
   1. For the SECOND BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE, keep a list of interesting words that strike you as you read. They may be words you know and just love the way they sound. They may be words you have never heard before. They may be words that sound weird or exotic to you. They may be words with different meanings. You can list as many words as you want, but you must list at least 25 words!! Figure out a way to creatively present them that will showcase them in a cool way. Have fun with the language!!
3. In addition to the reading assignments, please plan to spend some time this summer practicing your typing skills. Typing Club is free to use (<https://www.typingclub.com/>), so get those typing skills going!

Happy summer! Happy reading - Ms. Watkins