

Dear Incoming Sixth Graders,

I couldn't be more excited to have you in one of my English Six classes in the fall--we're going to have a GREAT year! We do a lot of projects in English Six, so you'll be undertaking work that I hope you'll find both challenging and meaningful, and that will require you to think and work hard, often in ways you might not have before. Here's what I'd like you to do over the summer to get ready for next year:

READING

- Read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton; it's a great book, and most guys enjoy it.
- Listen to one audiobook (note: it must be something other than *The Outsiders*) and think about how the reader made the story more interesting by how they read it.
- Read at least one other book of your choice (fiction, non-fiction, or even in-between). **YOU CAN DEFINITELY READ MORE IF YOU WANT!**
Suggestions – *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *Peak* by Roland Smith, *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger

WRITING

- So, I can get to know more about you, write about **the most significant, fun, and/or memorable single event** from your summer that you want me to know about.
- Focus on the actual hours or day when it happened. No need to write about the whole summer!
- Proofread for problems with mechanics (spelling, grammar, and punctuation), but do it yourself--no helping, mom and dad! I just want to see what YOUR writing is like.
- This should be one-to-two pages long, double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font.

Have a great summer, and see you in the fall!

Matthew Byars
English Six