

June 2026

Incoming 8th Grade Summer Reading (for students going into 8th grade)

Dear Students and Parents;

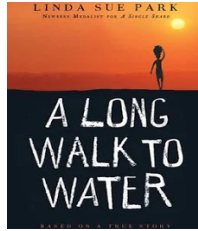
The summer reading assignment for incoming 8th graders is *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Students will need to purchase a copy of the book and follow the directions for annotating the text as they read. They will be focusing on character development which is where the 7th grade reading left off.

The assignment directions are attached. In addition to the novel, students will need a set of highlighters. The books will be collected and checked in August for a completion grade, and returned to the students to use as they begin their 8th grade year in reading and writing about literature.

Through the annotations, students should be prepared to not only test on comprehension, but also have their texts ready for discussion and written assignments based on the characters in the novel. This book will also be a springboard for adding the additional elements of setting and plot and provide an opportunity to compare and contrast a classic theme.

Happy Summer!

Incoming Grade 8 Annotated Summer Reading



Purchase a copy of *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. When you purchase your book, **PUT YOUR NAME IN IT.**

Annotation Guidelines for reading Novels

- Use a pencil as you read to mark your book.
- Use a highlighter to color code.
 - **Highlight challenging words (words you do not know) in GREEN.**
 - **Characters: highlight descriptive details about Slava and Nya's and their respective journeys in the book (based on what he or she says/dialogue, or does/actions/reactions) in BLUE.**
- To mark important events: problems, conflicts, actions, and resolutions (Plot) as the story progresses:
 - Use [brackets], * asterisks ? Question marks, # hash tags, or other bullet points.
 - Write in the margins of pages or between lines, and/or draw arrows and/or boxes around parts of the text.
- DO make comments about:
 - Connections to your own experiences (this is like...., I never would have....)
 - Confusing ideas (what's up with this.....? How come....?)
 - Your reactions to the passages (wow this is..., oh no...., eww..., sweet....., darn.....)

You will turn in your book with your annotations for a grade. Comprehension checks and follow up assignments will be completed in the first weeks of school.

- DO NOT use highlighter excessively or exclusively OR write notes in highlighter.
- DO NOT worry that your text markings are not like your classmates.
- DO NOT COPY annotated notes from ANYONE.
- DO NOT be afraid to be controversial or disagree in your comments (if you hate it, say you do and consider why, NOT that I hate to read!)

