

June 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am looking forward to working with your 8th grade Advanced Readers in September. I have heard great things about them from Mrs. Harris, and I have high expectations for these enthusiastic students.

We'll be starting with short stories to learn about the elements of a story. We will read challenging stories from famous authors, such as Shirley Jackson, Ambrose Bierce, Edgar Allan Poe and Katherine Porter, to name a few.

I believe strongly in choice. Students choose novels from my collection, and complete corresponding activities. We focus on one theme at a time, for example, historical fiction. Whenever possible, I coordinate with content area teachers. I have a lot of ideas, and we'll talk about them in September at Back to School night.

This year, students may choose either Peak by Roland Smith or Streams of Babel, by local author Carol Plum-Ucci for their summer reading assignment.

Students will choose one novel, and I will provide instructions once I receive a class roster. There is no need to purchase these novels. Mrs. Lipke will have the books in the middle school office.

Sincerely

Mrs. Sharon McDermott

Pick any 2 assignments from the grid.

If you choose an assignment that requires an illustration, you may draw by hand, or use a computer.

<p>Write a one page conversation between any two characters. You choose the topic.</p>	<p>Draw a 6 panel cartoon illustrating the problem, or conflict.</p>	<p>Pick any character, and tell why you like or don't like him or her. Give specific examples from the novel.</p>
<p>Find or draw a picture of the setting, and explain why the setting is important to the story.</p>	<p>Write a letter of advice to the protagonist, providing suggestions on how he or she could solve the problem.</p>	<p>Write or find a poem or song lyrics that relate to what your novel is about.</p>