SUMMER READING AND WRITING

Please complete the following during the summer months:

1. Complete the attached personal writing assignment.

2. Read and summarize at least four (4) books, including one from the attached list (pages 3-4 of this packet). The other three books may be of your choosing, any genre. You may type these summaries or use the attached reading log.

3. Sign the Honor Code form pledging that you have completed the work without assistance.

You will be handing in your completed assignment—your personal writing assignment, your reading log, and the Honor Code pledge—on Tuesday, September 8. Be sure that your name is on your response and that there are no loose papers.

We strongly suggest that both parents and students peruse the 2015 EX MULTIS, our Upper School literary magazine. We believe it showcases some of our best writing efforts.
SUMMER WRITING RESPONSE

What To Write
Please write a thoughtful personal response to the following question:

➔ Who do people think you are, compared to who you know you are?

How To Write
Importantly, write artfully and show, don’t simply tell! Let your own personal voice shine through. Consider using these elements of effective writing:

- Engage the five senses: sight, smell, sound, touch, hearing.
- Use figurative language—simile, metaphor, personification.
- Employ vivid verbs and lively description.
- Consider using symbolism or a motif or two.

Be sure to begin with a strong hook to capture our interest and to write in a way that helps us truly get to know you. If you are funny, be funny! If quirky, be so. You get the idea. We hope you are relieved to have this freedom of style. Remember, this is the first piece of writing that your teacher will have from you—you want to make a memorable first impression!

Please type your response using a legible, 12-point typeface. Your response should be about two full pages, double-spaced.

NOTE: You will be handing in your written response on Tuesday, September 8. Be sure your name is on your response, number the pages, and staple them together.
SUGGESTED TITLES FOR SUMMER READING

Choose at least one of the books from this list.

Remember, you are also to read three other books of your choice, any genre, over the summer. Summarize and review the books you read using the reading log (separate sheet) or typing a separate document. You will be reading a total of four books.

The Wave: In Pursuit of the Rogues, Freaks and Giants of the Ocean
Susan Casey

Unless you’re an avid surfer, this is as close as you’ll get to surfing a 100-foot wave. Susan Casey tows you into the biggest waves on the planet and debunks the theory that these waves can’t exist. It has weather, water, and whirligig wipe-outs. A perfect read for anyone interested in the mind of adrenaline junkies.

Revolution
Jennifer Donnelly

You may find the protagonist’s tough, cynical exterior off-putting at first, but you will soon sympathize with Andi Alpers. Her parents’ marriage is dissolving, and she is still mourning the tragic loss of her younger brother in a cab accident in Brooklyn. In danger of being expelled from her prestigious school, she is sent to Paris for a semester. An antique guitar somehow transports her to the time of the French Revolution. This novel blends realistic with historical fiction—and if you love music, you will enjoy this imaginative and ultimately redemptive story.

PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories 2010
Laura Furman, Ed.

Short stories are, well, short. Your English teachers are big fans of finding stories that capture our attention but don’t take long to plow through. Pick up a short story the next time you’re thinking of playing Angry Birds. Same time commitment. Better results.

The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea
Sebastian Junger

Mr. McGovern read this 20 years ago, and it still haunts him today. He writes, “As a boy growing up in Ohio I only saw commercial fishing boats every few years when my family would travel to Block Island (ask me about the rocks in my room). These metal beasts sat in my dreams until Junger brought them to life. Thanks a lot for keeping me up at night, Sebastian!”

Into the Wild
Jon Krakauer

Escape. Get out. Leave behind the distractions modern life uses to shackle us all. That’s what this book is about. It also reminds us that you’d better not take your steps into the wilderness lightly, because nature isn’t forgiving. Anyone who has dreamed of disappearing needs to read this one.

List continues…
**Good Night, Mr. Tom**
Michelle Magorian

Willie Beech, a neglected boy living in London, is evacuated to the English countryside during World War II. The adjustment to country life is difficult at first, but the old man he lives with, Mr. Tom, is kind, and Willie meets many wonderful young people with whom he becomes fast friends. You will feel as if the characters are your best friends, too. Willie is able to heal emotionally from the poverty and abuse of his past. One reviewer says this “engrossing and poignant story [has] much sunlight to balance the darkness.”

**Here, There Be Dragons**
James A. Owen

A fantasy story that weaves together four Englishmen with the amazing creatures of that genre’s literature—dwarves, elves, centaurs, dragons—in a battle for world domination, starting with the *Imaginarium Geographica*, a magical atlas containing maps of the fantastical world beyond what we see. There is a great twist at the end where we discover the true identity of our four protagonists.

**The Golden Compass**
Philip Pullman

Lyra lives in a parallel world that looks and seems like ours, but also has some major differences. For example, people in this world have daemons, or animal-spirits, that accompany them everywhere they go. Lyra lives at a college in Oxford, England, but is soon whisked away on an exciting adventure that will take her around her world.

**The Queen of Water**
Laura Resau

In a desperately poor village in Ecuador, seven year-old Virginia is sold off by her *indigena* (Indian) parents as a servant to an academic, *mestizo* family. Though hoping her new home would provide a few comforts not found in her old one, Virginia finds herself being harshly treated and constantly insulted as a *longa tonta* (stupid Indian). Unwilling to accept the life of a servant and the prospect of never seeing her family again, yet unsure how much of her culture she has to forfeit to reach her goals, Virginia strives to overcome many obstacles. Will she ever be able to realize her dreams and become the woman she knows she can be?

**I Am Malala**
Malala Yousafzai, Christina Lamb

When the Taliban took control of Pakistan’s Swat Valley, girls were forbidden to go to school. Unwilling to give up her dream of becoming a doctor, Malala Yousafzai spoke out for her right to an education. She almost paid the ultimate price when, riding the bus home from school, she was shot in the head by a member of the Taliban. Against the odds, Malala recovered and has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize. This memoir will make you believe in the power of one person’s voice to inspire change in the world.

**Poetry Collection**

You’ll have a terrific poetry unit this year in eighth grade, so you might want to get started by exploring some poems. You may read any collection of over 100 poems. Some suggested poets: Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Mary Oliver, Edna St. Vincent Millay, William Stafford, or Alice Walker.
SUMMER READING LOG

Name: ______________________________________________

*By writing my name here, I certify that I have completed all the books listed below.*

Incoming eighth graders must read a **minimum of four (4) books** over the summer, at least one of which must be from the list of suggested titles on pages 3-4 of the summer packet. You are encouraged to read more if you are so inclined! Type or use this log to summarize the books you read (see sample below).

You will submit your reading log with your written response on **Tuesday, September 8, 2015**.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE and AUTHOR:</th>
<th>Spite Fences by Trudy Krisher</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMARY:</td>
<td>Maggie is a white teenager who lives with her family in a small Georgia town in the early 1960s. Her family, which is poor, has problems getting along, and many of the people in her town are prejudiced against blacks. Maggie becomes friendly with some black activists and then witnesses the horrible beatings they receive.</td>
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Please feel free to photocopy this sheet if you need to.
UPPER SCHOOL

SUMMER PACKET HONOR CODE

Name (please print): ______________________________

I did all the work in this summer packet independently. I did not receive help from any tutor or outside source.

Student Signature ____________________________

Parent Signature ______________________________

Date ____________________________

This form should be signed and handed in with your completed summer work.