Dear Parents,

It is with great excitement that I am writing to you about Gilmour Academy’s Middle School summer reading program! It is our hope that students supplement their own recreational reading with two additional novels in order to enhance their literacy skills and to support their lifelong journey as learners.

Students should choose one book from the required list below and then select one book of their own choice. They should be reading both works for the first time. We encourage each student to annotate while reading; this includes highlighting or underlining important passages, writing comments and questions in the margins, defining unknown words, making predictions and documenting text connections. These annotations will be helpful for students when they begin their first assignment at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

We also encourage students to utilize and practice additional reading comprehension strategies to help them engage the text. Some of these strategies are:

- Listening to audio versions of the text (Please ensure your child reads along with the speaker if using this option.)
- Drawing pictures to summarize the text
- Writing summaries
- Keeping track of characters on a character list
- Creating comprehension quizzes over the chapters
- Rereading
- Making a comic strip version of the text
- Having discussion about plot and/or character motivation with friends and family

As parents, you are your child’s most important teachers. We look forward to working with you to support your child as we dive further into literature. Some ways that you can help support your child are:

- Reading the novels your child is reading
- Setting up a daily reading routine in your home
- Having discussions about the topics in the novels
- Searching for and discerning good book titles for your child

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. It is an honor to be a part of your child’s education.

Sincerely,

Katie Kominek
Instructor in English
kominekk@gilmour.org
(440) 473-8000 x5203
Gilmour Academy’s Middle School Summer Reading Program

Book Titles

Grade 7

1. Million Dollar Throw by Mike Lupica
2. The Magician’s Nephew by C.S. Lewis
3. Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Grade 8

1. After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick
2. And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
3. The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer