

May 2016

Dear Rising Fifth Grade Families,

Though it may seem as though your little girl has just started school, in a few short months she will become one of the newest members of the Hathaway Brown Middle School. As such, she will be excited to get off to a great start. Summer is the perfect time to begin to adjust to the expectations of Middle School. The summer months offer your daughter an opportunity to explore many different kinds of literature, which include her own choices as well as those selections we make for her. This will also be a time for her to adjust to the pace of reading in the Middle School.

Our goal in the fifth grade is to help our students become independent readers, introduce them to new literature, and make reading a pleasurable experience. Each student is required to read a total of six books during the summer. The two required novels are Patricia Reilly Giff's *Pictures of Hollis Woods* and *President of the Whole Fifth Grade* by Sherri Winston. These books are enjoyable reads, and they reinforce many of the themes we study throughout fifth grade: self-awareness, resiliency, leadership, and an appreciation of diversity. Because we will discuss these two novels in great detail in September, we encourage your daughter to read these works carefully in August to better retain key information for class discussion and activities.

In addition to these two books, your daughter is expected to read at least four other books from our Recommended Reading List. This list will be available on the HB Summer Reading webpage at: <http://www.hb.edu/page.cfm?p=1286>. For each book your daughter chooses to read, she should create a 4x6" note card which includes the title, author, and a short response highlighting what she enjoyed about the book. Please consult the attached example for completing the cards. Her English teacher will collect these four cards during the first week of school. She does not need to fulfill this requirement for the two required titles (*Pictures of Hollis Woods* and *President of the Whole Fifth Grade*).

A number of public libraries also offer incentive programs to encourage summer reading, and this is an excellent way to reward students' recreational reading. Encourage your daughter to discuss her books with you and, of course, feel free to read along with her. Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to getting to know you in the fall.

Sincerely,

Laura Zappas, Middle School English Department Chair  
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## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Assignment

- Use one 4x6 note card for **each** choice book.
- Write the **title and author** at the top of the card.
- Write a **three to five sentence paragraph** explaining what you enjoyed about the book.
- Rubber band or paper clip cards together.
- **Write your name** on your stack of cards.
- Submit your cards to your English teacher the first week of school!

*Sample note card:*

*Title*

*Author*

Write a THREE to FIVE sentence paragraph explaining what you enjoyed about the book.