Dear Parents of Upcoming 6th Grade Students,

RELA classes at AMS are designed to expose students to quality literature and promote independent reading, inquiry, and scholarship which will facilitate students as life-long learners.

New for the 2015-2016 school year, all AMS students are required to read one book from the attached list over the summer. The reading over the summer allows teachers to begin literary discussions at the level of depth and complexity required to succeed in RELA at the middle school level. Students will be expected to complete assignments over the summer and during the first grading period of school based on the book they read over the summer.

Sixth grade academic on-level students should choose one book from the list labeled Academic On-level Choices (attached).

Sixth grade PRE-AP students need to choose one book from the list labeled Pre-AP Choices (attached).

Because these novels may be in high demand over the summer, we recommend ordering your book as soon as possible. Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Half-Price Books, and the local libraries should be able to assist you in finding a book.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tyler Pink, 6th Grade RELA Team Leader, at tyler.pink@humble.k12.tx.us.

Again, welcome to AMS! Go Tigers!!

AMS RELA Teachers
AMS: 6th Grade Summer Reading List

(Award Winning Books from the 2014 Texas Lone Star Reading List)

Academic On-level Choices (choose one):

Eighth grade science geek, Theo Rollins, grows 8 inches over the summer and encounters new challenges during the school year. (Lexile 660)

An exciting and inspiring memoir of a Navy Seal, the author tells his stories of harrowing training and wartime experiences in multiple, fairly recent conflicts. He occasionally addresses the reader, asking them to consider their own decisions and actions in light of compassion and courage. (Lexile 910)

Isolde Brannick comes from a long line of monster hunters. She is finally ready to solve a case on her own, a haunting at a local high school. With the help of her new friends, a cute boy and a 400 year old warlock trapped in the mirror, Izzy will finally prove to herself and her mother that she has what it takes to be a true Brannick. (Lexile 730)

Middle school troublemaker and all around average student, Donovan Curtis, is accidentally sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (a school for gifted students) where he hides out after causing the destruction of the school gym. (Lexile 730)

Lopez, Diana. Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel. ISBN: 978-0316209960
After 13th year old Chia finds out her mother has breast cancer, she visits a church and makes a promise in exchange for her mother’s recovery. (Lexile 700)

Timberlake, Amy. One Came Home. ISBN: 978-0375869259
Not convinced that the girl her family buried is her sister, 13 year old Georgie sets out on a dangerous journey to discover the truth behind her sister’s mysterious disappearance. (Lexile 690)

**Please note: The higher the Lexile number, the higher the reading level.**
Pre-AP Choices (choose one):

**Greitens, Eric. The Warrior’s Heart. ISBN: 978-0547868523**
An exciting and inspiring memoir of a Navy Seal, the author tells his stories of harrowing training and wartime experiences in multiple, fairly recent conflicts. He occasionally addresses the reader, asking them to consider their own decisions and actions in light of compassion and courage. (Lexile 910)

Middle school troublemaker and all around average student, Donovan Curtis, is accidentally sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (a school for gifted students) where he hides out after causing the destruction of the school gym. (Lexile 730)

**Lopez, Diana. Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel. ISBN: 978-0316209960**
After 13th year old Chia finds out her mother has breast cancer, she visits a church and makes a promise in exchange for her mother’s recovery. (Lexile 700)

The Problem (a plague of ghosts) has given rise to plenty of work for children who can see ghosts. Unfortunately, it’s a risky business, and Lockwood & Co. will face many perils as they attempt to rid homes of Visitors including physical damage, death, and property destruction. (Lexile 720)

**Please note: The higher the Lexile number, the higher the reading level.**
Summer Reading – Assignment #1
Body Mapping Activity

Overview and Objectives:
An author develops a character by revealing his personality through thoughts, words, actions, and interactions with others. A strong reader pays attention to these characteristics and is able to draw conclusions about the character based on these traits.

When you return to school in the fall, you will create a “body map” project that analyzes the thoughts, feelings, actions and interactions of the main character (protagonist). Complete the following assignment to prepare for this project that will count as a test (summative) grade.

Assignment:
As you read, find at least (2) examples of quality text evidence (lines from the text that support your answer) to answer the following questions:

- **BRAIN**: What thoughts occupy the mind of your character?
- **EYES**: How does your character see himself / herself?
- **MOUTH**: What do others say about the character?
- **SHOULDERS**: What are the burdens the character carries?
- **HEART**: What does your character love?
- **ARMS**: Who or what does your character reject or push away?
- **HANDS**: What problem(s) does your character need to fix?
- **STOMACH**: What are the things for which this character hungers? What are their goals or ambitions?
- **FEET**: What has your character built his foundation upon? What does your character value?
- **LEGS**: What hurdles or obstacles does your character face?

### Example: Brain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRAIN: What thoughts occupy the mind of your character?</th>
<th>Your Personal Response to the Question:</th>
<th>Text Evidence that Supports Your Answer:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Throughout the novel Walk Two Moons, Sal is constantly thinking about getting to her mother’s grave site before her mother’s birthday. That desire causes her to feel anxious each time her family stops during the road trip. Furthermore, Sal has this overwhelming need to see her mother’s resting place in order to believe that her mother is really gone.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1) “At last Gramps said, I sure do hate to get back on the road, but time’s a-wastin!’ ‘Yes, I thought, yes, yes, yes!’” (Creech 31). 2) “I thought the sheriff was probably going to put me in jail, and it wasn’t the thought of jail that bothered me so much. It was knowing that I was this close and might not be able to do what I had come to do” (Creech 147)</td>
</tr>
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Body Mapping Assignment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Part</th>
<th>Personal Response to Question:</th>
<th>Text Evidence:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brain</td>
<td><em>What thoughts occupy the mind of your character?</em></td>
<td>1. (Page # ________)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. (Page # ________)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td><em>How does your character see himself / herself?</em></td>
<td>1. (Page # ________)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. (Page # ________)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands</td>
<td>What does your character need to fix?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. (Page # __________)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. (Page # __________)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stomach</th>
<th>What are the things for which this character hungers? What are their goals or ambitions?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. (Page # __________)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. (Page # __________)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet</td>
<td>Legs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does your character value?</td>
<td>What are the hurdles or obstacles you face?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. (Page #)</td>
<td>1. (Page #)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. (Page #)</td>
<td>2. (Page #)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A book club is an opportunity to really explore the characters, events, and ideas within the pages of a book using a discussion format. Please respond in writing to each of the following questions, being sure to include details and page numbers to support your thoughts. Be prepared to participate in a lively book club talk with your classmates in August! You will probably want to highlight or sticky-note important plot events within the pages of your book, too, as you will refer to your book often.

**Setting:**
*If the setting of this piece were changed, how would it affect the plot, characters, and conflict?*

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**Conflict:**
*What do you think is the biggest conflict (problem) in the book? Why?*

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**Character:**
*Explain a major change the main character (protagonist) experiences. How is it important to the book?*

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Character:
If you were planning a birthday party for the main character, what gift would you give him/her and why. Provide evidence for your choice.

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Resolution:
If you could write a different ending for the book, what would it be? Explain.

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Theme:
What have you learned about life from this book? Explain your thoughts.

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