

Dear Rising 8th Grader,

In an effort to keep your reading skills sharp and to enjoy some really good books over the summer, your assignment is to read the following two books:

Code Orange by Caroline B. Cooney

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

As you read, we encourage you to annotate each text. Your 8th grade Language Arts teacher will spend some time when school returns helping you to think about and prepare for assessments and activities. All you have to focus on in the coming weeks is reading your two titles, annotating the text, and enjoying your books. A brief annotation guide is included with these instructions to help you think about possible themes as you read.

You may purchase both books from well-known websites such as thriftbooks.com, amazon.com, readingwarehouse.com, or BarnesandNoble.com. Purchasing your own book will allow you to annotate on the actual pages of your book. However, you may check out both books from Ashe County Middle School Monday-Thursday 9:00-3:00. If you choose to check out the books, you may annotate on post-it notes, but do not write in books checked out from the school since other classes have to also use the books.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ANNOTATING THE TEXT:

1. **What is annotating?** A way that readers track their responses to various texts.
2. **Why do we annotate?** So we can refer back to our ideas when we are asked to write and talk about text, making sure to include textual evidence that we've noted while reading.
3. **When do we annotate?** You need to annotate when something strikes you as important or particularly meaningful.
4. **What does annotating look like?** Here are samples from one student's annotations while reading Michael Jordan: Legends in Sports , by Matt Christopher (2008): > ? How will this situation (or event) challenge Michael Jordan and how will he handle such challenges? > ! – I can't believe that Michael Jordan didn't make the team in high school! > * His decision to continue playing basketball would've been tough, but it changed his life (and the sport of basketball) forever. > (underlining important ideas) – "Michael learned quickly that he would have to earn each victory."

You may also employ any other annotating strategies that you have learned throughout your school career. See you in August. If you have any questions, please contact the school during summer hours mentioned above (336)384-3591.

Sincerely, ACMS Reading and ELA Staff