

Dear Rising 7th 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:

The Book of Time by Guillaume Prevost

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

As you read, we encourage you to annotate each text with the theme of “CHALLENGES” in mind. In the first few weeks of school, you will take a formal writing assessment that asks you to identify and analyze the impact of the **challenges** presented to characters, individuals, and/or societies you read about over the summer. Please don’t worry about the assignment at this time! Your 7th grade Language Arts teacher will spend some time when school returns helping you to think about and prepare for this assessment. 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 the theme of “challenges” 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.

We also encourage you to read two news articles per week on a variety of current events. This will help you have background knowledge for classroom discussions. Our school website lists these requirements if you misplace this letter or need a quick reference. Happy reading and we look forward to helping you on your academic journey!

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, especially if you already know what the focus of your reading should be (in the case of summer reading, you should annotate the text when you come across ideas or information that “speaks” to the concept of CHALLENGES).
- 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 elementary 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