

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

One of my favorite parts about summer vacation is the free time I have to finally start reading the many books I've collected over the past few months. I am often found reading under the shade of a tree, in my hammock, by the pool, or on a plane--the opportunities to immerse myself in other worlds are endless! Summer provides lots of time to make choices about your reading life, and as we move into the next school year, I will strive to encourage and nurture a love of all kinds of written word. When the students are selecting books to read this summer, encourage them to explore a new genre or idea--maybe they will discover something new about themselves!

This summer, I am asking each incoming 4<sup>th</sup> grade student to read at least **two books**. **The first book** should be from the provided book list, and will be read with a family member (or entire family!), guardian, or close family friend. The student may read the entire book aloud, you may take turns reading aloud, or you may all read along with an audiobook. I encourage the students to select their book by finding the synopsis that is most interesting to them.

After reading this book, the student will be conducting an interview of the person (or people) they read with, thinking of **7 thoughtful questions** to ask them about the book. Interviews could include questions such as "if you could change anything about the book, what would you change and why? What is your favorite part of the book and why?" The interview should be filmed, and the students are encouraged to approach this creatively! If for some reason they are unable to film the interview, a script with questions and answers can be turned in as an alternative. Interviews are to be submitted to Ms. Walker via email by the first day of school at: [mwalker@thehealdsburgschool.org](mailto:mwalker@thehealdsburgschool.org).

The **second book** can be a novel of the student's choice, but should have a main character that is significantly different from them (different culture, family structure, race, gender, life experiences). Students are encouraged to find a book that sounds engaging to them, not just one that is "easy enough" or "long enough"! Again, this book can be read alongside an audiobook if needed. Once they finish reading, students will be comparing the main character with themselves in any format they wish. This may look like a venn diagram, a drawing of each character with labels, a scripted scene where the student lives in the same world as the character, a painting, written response, etc. Possible comparisons may include: physical traits, family, likes/dislikes, culture, personality, friendships, etc. I am excited to hang these around our classroom in the first week to show their peers what we have been reading!

I am so excited for our upcoming year together, and cannot wait to watch the students grow as readers. I encourage them to read many books of their own choosing, too, because I am always in need of a good book recommendation!

HAPPY READING!

Ms. Walker