

WEST HEMPSTEAD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WEST HEMPSTEAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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May 2008

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the **Middle School Required Summer Reading Program**. In keeping with our desire to promote a commitment to lifelong learning, we are requiring all middle school students to do some reading this summer. Reading opens many doors for children to learn about the world and to gain insight and understanding of the people and things around them.

**In order to make this program work, we need your support.** Parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. Children imitate what they see their parents do, and so we need you to develop and encourage your child's enjoyment of reading. When you encourage your child to read, you are helping him/her to build a store of general knowledge, increase vocabulary, improve comprehension and foster critical thinking skills (i.e. make inferences, draw conclusions), all of which will result in higher grades in school.

Mindful of this information and the New York State Department of Education requirements, **every middle school student will be required to read at least two books and complete a study guide for each book read during the summer vacation.** The study guides should be completed neatly. Responses should be written in full sentences where indicated.

Your required signature at the bottom of each study guide will indicate your knowledge of a completed reading assignment. Copies of the fiction study and non-fiction study guides are enclosed. Please make photocopies as needed. Also, the study guides may be downloaded from our district website, [www.whufsd.com](http://www.whufsd.com).

Completed study guides must be brought to school and handed in to your child's English teacher during the first week of school in September. The required book will be the subject of a multiple-choice reading comprehension test during the second week of school, after students have had the opportunity to discuss the reading in class and ask questions. Failure to complete the required readings and study guides will result in lowering your child's first quarter English grade by 10%.

**At each grade level, every student must read the required book indicated for his/her English class, and then choose at least one additional book from the list provided. Students who read more than the minimum of two books and complete a study guide for these extra books will be invited to attend a breakfast acknowledging their accomplishment.**

Sincerely yours,  
The West Hempstead Middle School English Department

"'Tis the good reader that makes the good book."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson