



June 2025

Dear Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Families,

All ASJA middle school students are required to read and review **two books** this summer. When we return in August, they will share their reviews with their classmates. *The assignment is not meant to be a drag.* Students should choose books that truly interest them and that they enjoy reading. If they don't like what they've picked after a few chapters, they should pick again.

For incoming 7th and 8th graders: Please help your child choose one book from the Rebecca Caudill Award reading list and one from Mr. Payne's social studies list.

For incoming 6th graders: Please help your child choose one book from the Rebecca Caudill list and one from the 'Recommended Reading Lists'.

Most books will be available to borrow from local libraries, though some might have waiting lists. Students may read independently, listen to audio versions while they read, and/or read aloud with a family member or friend. If several students pick the same book, they could even organize informal book groups and periodically check on each other's progress, understanding, and enjoyment.

Once they finish each book, *students will write out or type a review* of it. It should read like a movie trailer--not revealing the ending but rather enticing readers to find out what happens themselves. There is no length requirement. Below is an outline that students should follow. Roman numerals symbolize paragraphs.

Title

I: Introduction

A. Book Info

1. Title
2. Author
3. Genre
4. Length
5. Style
6. Difficulty

7. Whatever else seems important to mention

B. Basic summary of book, no spoilers (don't give away the ending)

II. Literary Element Focus

A. Chosen literary element (character, setting, description, theme, style, purpose, structure, etc.) and how the book generally deals with it

B. 2-3 examples of the element in the book and what you think about them.
(quotations optional, specific details required)

III. Stars, Recommendation

A. How many stars?

B. Do you recommend it or not? Why or why not?

C. For whom do you recommend it?

Thank you very much for your support with this assignment. Have a great, wild, lazy, adventurous, and relaxing summer.



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