



HOBOKEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Summer English Language Arts Entering Grades 8-9

June 15, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

Books can take us places we have never been and teach us how other people think, live, dream, and thrive. They give us the opportunity to view the world from a different perspective, which empowers readers to begin to plant seeds of empathy and fairness in their very own communities. Once we see the world from someone else's viewpoint, we learn to include them in the decisions we make, especially decisions that affect everyone.

For the 2018 Summer Reading Initiative, Hoboken Public Schools has carefully selected texts that highlight diversity, fairness, and empathy. Additionally, this project will share the common theme that each life is valuable and precious, regardless of origin, skin color, religion, gender, or orientation. Most importantly, your child will see themselves and people from diverse backgrounds and experiences saving the day, working hard, loving fiercely, and overcoming obstacles. Rising Grade Eight Students will read *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and Christine Lamb. Rising Ninth Grade Students will read *A Mighty Long Way* by Carlotta Walls Lanier.

All writing prompts are narrative. Students will engage with narrative writing upon return in September 2018 using the prompts from summer 2018. In using these writing prompts as the first assignments, teachers will engage students in Writers' Workshop in the lower grades and Socratic Seminar in the middle to high school grade levels.

There will be copies of the books available at the schools throughout the summer for students to use. Please reach out to your child's principal for more information on how to check out books to complete the summer assignments. You are encouraged to visit the Hoboken Public Library. For students entering grade eight they will sign out their core novels at HMS. For students entering grade nine, they will sign out their core novels at HHS.

The district is proud to announce that Little City Books provided a discount to our schools in order to purchase core novels that our students will be able to sign out throughout the summer. Additionally, Little City Books will also offer a 10% discount for any of our families that choose to purchase the book for themselves. We thank you in advance for working with your child throughout the summer to ensure that they will be academically ready for SY 2018-2019.

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II

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