

Dear Future Fifth Grade Students and Parents,

I am writing this letter to welcome you to our fifth grade journey. This is the first step in what I hope will be a challenging and rewarding experience for us all. Our first order of business is our summer reading.

Often our young people do not see the immediate rewards when it comes to the summer reading program. I usually respond by saying that if we look at reading as an inconvenience or a burden it lessens the value of our experience. Open your minds and let the words paint pictures in our minds' eye.

I have chosen books that I feel will create both a heightened sense of wonder and help us appreciate the delicate nature of our lives. That and reading can be fun and entertaining.

The book, *The Lemonade War*, by Jacqueline Davies, is a story of an exciting summer spent with the main characters, Evan and Jessie. Evan and Jessie are siblings that are about to spend the next school year together. Jessie is the younger of the two and she is skipping the third grade and will be in Evan's fourth grade class. Evan is less than thrilled. Their characters share common personal conflicts with their readers and are able to convey the ups and downs of everyday relationships.

Our other selections are interesting and very engaging, *Flush*, by Carl Hiaasen, is limitless when it comes to tapping the imagination. *A Cricket in Times Square*, by George Shelden, is a timeless story of friendship and adventure. *Dail-a-Ghost*, by Eva Ibbotson, is a fun book with interesting ghost families called the Wilkinsons and the Shriekers.

The assignments for these books are as follows:

- Each book will have a story map for them to fill out.(See attached)
- For *The Lemonade Wars*, please write a short story describing a time when you faced your own personal conflict. Conflicts between siblings, friends, or other relationships. One to two pages in length.
- For *A Cricket in Times Square*, *Dai-a-Ghost*, or *Flush*, please create a poster (no larger than 12x18) that has the title and author written clearly and highly visible. The poster will have a description of the main characters, the setting, any problems and solutions experienced by the characters. It will also include a summary of the book and a picture of their favorite scene in the book.

Thanks so much for your cooperation and support this summer. I am looking forward to next year. Have a great summer and God Bless.

Mahalo,

