



Greenburgh Central  
School District  
Our Children. Our Focus. Our Future.



Matthew C. Smith

Principal | Woodlands Middle/High School

T: 914.761.6052

F: 914.761.6951

E: [msmith@greenburghcsd.org](mailto:msmith@greenburghcsd.org)

Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming 7th and Upcoming 8th grade Middle School Students:

Reading for understanding AND enjoyment is a major factor in student success. Good readers read often, and reading in a consistent manner over the summer months, let's say fifteen to twenty minutes each day rather than a lot all at once, will keep their reading in great shape!

The adoption of the Common Core State Standards has reinforced the expectation that every child read twenty-five "just right" books, independently, each and every year. This summer we are assigning, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer to all incoming 7th graders, and *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Martin Ganda, Caitlin Alifirenka and Liz Welch to all incoming 8th graders.

We encourage all of our students to read, read, read! Please encourage them to read a second book of their choosing once they are done with their assigned novel.

When we return to school in September, all English classes will administer an in-class test based on the annotated novel. In addition, we will be working on an essay that examines the character traits of the main characters and how these traits help them to overcome their struggles.

Our goal is to promote active reading and help students engage with texts. Our quest in September will focus mainly on the characters and major events in the plot. It is HIGHLY SUGGESTED, but not mandatory, that students keep a visual record of their reading. This can be done in any number of ways:

- Use "stickies," or post-its to track thoughts across a book,
- Create charts or diagrams to monitor understanding,
- Keep a notebook or journal to elaborate on his/her thinking, and/or
- Use any additional note styles...note (index) cards, etc., that have worked for your son/daughter in the past.
- An annotation guide is included for assistance in helping your child annotate successfully

Students must bring a copy of their book to school by Friday, September 6, 2019.

We are looking forward to a terrific new school year...have a great summer!!!

***If you have any question, please contact Mrs. Cinquemani at: [acinquemani@greenburghcsd.org](mailto:acinquemani@greenburghcsd.org) I will be checking my email regularly through the last day of school, and then periodically during the summer months.***

*kindest regards,*

Aileen Cinquemani  
ELA Lead Teacher Grades 7-12  
Woodlands Middle/High School  
475 West Hartsdale Avenue | Hartsdale, NY 10530  
(914) 761-6052

## Annotation Guide

Include these in your text along with margin notes

\* (Star) - Very Important Information

\_\_\_\_\_ (underline) - Names, Places, Details, etc.

V (Check) - When you understand and Idea / Concept

O (Circle) - Any Unfamiliar Words

? (question mark) - Anything you do Not Understand

! (exclamation point) - Surprising or New Information

∞ (infinity sign) - When you make a connection

" \_\_\_\_\_ " (Quotation marks) - Ask Questions/ Make

Inferences and Predictions

## SIFTT

### S: Symbolism/ Symbols

An object that stands for something larger than itself

### I: Imagery

Words that appeal to the 5 senses so we can have a better picture in our minds - Sight, Sound, Smell, Taste and Touch

### F: Figurative Language

Descriptive Language that can help reveal an Author's Attitude towards its subject - Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Imagery

### T: Tone

The Author's Attitude about what he/she is writing -  
Diction, Syntax, Punctuation, Capitalization, Grammar

### TH: Theme

The message/ moral of the story that the author is trying to convey to readers

