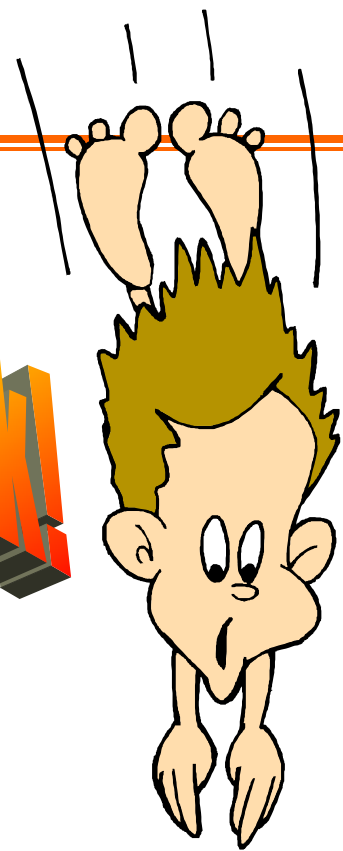


Dive into a Book!



Summertime
is a great time
to refresh body AND mind!

While in seventh grade the emphasis was on exploring yourself and your values, in eighth we seek to explore the world around you and the issues society faces. History and culture have been factors which determine the social issues we still must confront. One social issue still facing us in spite of years of struggle is that of civil rights and prejudice. The first quarter of Language Arts Plus uses historical fiction and research to understand the background of this ongoing challenge.

Since the Plus classes are designed to examine issues in depth (and because Plus students LOVE to read!), the Plus teachers are asking you to choose one of the following books to read over the summer that will provide the background which fostered this confrontation.

Returning to school in the fall, you will take a short test on the book including a paragraph essay.

Across Five Aprils – “The unforgettable story of young Jethro-Creighton who comes of age during the turbulent years of the Civil War.”

(some copies available at school, medium size book)

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman – “This novel is in the guise of tape-recorded recollections of a black woman who has lived 110 years, who has been both a slave and a witness to the black militancy of the 1960’s.”

(some copies available at school, medium size book)

The Land – “Ever since running away at age 14, Paul-Edwards has had one dream: to own land. However, for anyone black coming of age in 1880’s Mississippi, this is not simple goal. From horse racing to lumber camps to outwitting double-cross businessmen, Paul-Edwards will do what it takes to make his dream come true.”

(short book; pre-quel to the required reading book in 8th grade)

Roots – “In 688 pages, Alex Haley has captured the history of one family, the history of an entire race of people whose names and identity were stolen from them because of their race.”

(some mature content, longer book)

RETURN THIS SLIP TO Mrs. Kelly @ North Middle School by Thursday, May 27.

5808 Oregon, Portage, MI 49024

I understand the requirement of summer reading for my son/daughter in order to participate in the Language Arts PLUS program.

Name of son/daughter _____

Signature _____

...or you could read all four just for fun!!