



FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kilmer Middle School

8100 Wolftrap Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182

June 2016

Dear Rising 8th grade Kilmer students,

We are very excited to meet and work with you next year! We have quite a few things to accomplish in English, which you may have heard about.

Our year at a glance includes nonfiction and fiction reading, writing (lots of writing!), persuasive techniques (we'll do some fun activities!), and of course grammar, grammar, grammar! Now...before you moan and groan, just realize that it is still 10 weeks away and we really want you to enjoy this summer!

Speaking of summer, among your plans for summer camp, swim team, 4th of July, and family vacations, you will also have a reading assignment from us. This reading assignment is not just one book that you must read. After all, books should be about something you are interested in. Our entire English year will focus on a theme. Our theme is FREEDOM. We have put together a list of 26 titles from which you may choose. These are very good books with lots of different story lines that all focus on this theme. You may choose to read one or more from this list. You will have an assignment at the beginning of the year based on this reading.

So to recap:

- enjoy your summer
- read ONE of the books (or more) on this list
- be ready for an open-ended assignment in September

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Kilmer 8th grade English teachers

Young Adult Fiction: Freedom Theme

AUTHOR	TITLE	GENRE
Avi	<i>Nothing but the Truth</i>	Realistic Fiction
Bausum, Ann	<i>Freedom Riders</i>	Nonfiction
Beals, Melba Patillo	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>	Nonfiction
Bodeen, S.A.	<i>The Compound</i>	Sci Fi/Dystopia
Bridges, Ruby	<i>Through My Eyes</i>	Biography
Campbell, Susan	<i>The Boy Who Dared</i>	Historical Fiction
Condie, Ally	<i>Matched</i>	Sci Fi/Dystopia
George, Jean Craighead	<i>My Side of the Mountain</i>	Fiction/Adventure
Curtis, Christopher Paul	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i>	Historical Fiction
D'Adamo, Francesco	<i>Iqbal</i>	Historical Fiction
Engle, Margarita	<i>The Surrender Tree</i>	Poetry
Staples, Suzanne Fisher	<i>Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind</i>	Historical Fiction
Hobbs, Will	<i>Crossing the Wire</i>	Realistic Fiction
Lester, Julius	<i>To Be a Slave</i>	Nonfiction
Lowry, Lois	<i>Number the Stars</i>	Realistic Fiction
Mikaelson, Ben	<i>Touching Spirit Bear</i>	Realistic Fiction/Adventure
Namioka, Lensey	<i>Ties That Bind, Ties That Break</i>	Historical Fiction
Park, Linda Sue	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i>	Historical Fiction
Pullman, Philip	<i>The Golden Compass</i>	Fantasy
Sachar, Louis	<i>Holes</i>	Realistic Fiction
Sis, Peter	<i>The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain</i>	Nonfiction/Graphic
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Wringer</i>	Realistic Fiction
Taylor, Mildred	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>	Historical Fiction
Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Poetry/Memoir
Yates, Elizabeth	<i>Amos Fortune, Free Man</i>	Historical Fiction
Zusak, Markus	<i>The Book Thief</i>	Historical Fiction