Dear Students:

Let’s start by addressing your most pressing question: **Why have summer reading?**

Reading is vital. As we read, we test our own values and experiences with those of others. By the end of a book, we have encountered new experiences, ideas, and people. Hopefully, we know our world and ourselves a little better.

In addition, nothing develops your verbal skills like book reading. We teach grammar, usage, vocabulary, and spelling in our classes. Yet these efforts pale by comparison with what you can absorb naturally and painlessly if you read frequently on your own. Year in and year out, the students who read with the greatest understanding, write with the greatest clarity and purpose, and excel in national testing tend to be those who read widely. Reading confers tangible benefits as well as a variety of pleasures.

In compiling the list below, we have done our best to provide you with reading experiences of true quality. We have also sought to include a variety of books to ensure that each of you will find something of personal interest.

**Reading Requirements:**

You are required to read **two** books over the summer--the one listed as **required** for your grade level and any one from the **Secondary** list. If you are interested in participating in Battle of the Books in the upcoming school year, you may want to consider one of the texts marked with (BOTB).

**A Note on Outside Sources and Plagiarism:**

While working on the summer reading, it is important for students to remember that all work must be their own. This means that students are to complete the work without consulting the internet or other outside sources. In addition, students are to complete work by themselves, without collaborating with peers. All English courses will begin the academic year with a discussion about plagiarism, and students will sign an academic honesty pledge in which they assert they 1) understand the concept of plagiarism and 2) are aware of the consequences that come with it. As a school dedicated to the development of strong, ethical leaders, we take plagiarism very seriously.

Before beginning your summer reading assignments, please take the time to view the video at the link below that contains a walkthrough of the definition of plagiarism by the English Department Chair, Kath Brandwood: <http://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cbhirfXTVv>.

If you have any questions, please email Ms. Brandwood at kbrandwood@doaneacademy.org.

**Assignment:**

1. There will be an in-class writing assignment on your **required** book in September. It is recommended you read this text in August and take detailed notes. It is also recommended that you purchase a copy of this text to use in class at the start of the year.
2. Complete one of the two writing assignments below for your selected **Secondary** text. Three of the options are from the **Battle of the Books** list and are indicated as such. Your final product should include references to specific character actions, narrative events, and textual passages.
   1. Choose a character from your selected book whom you like or dislike. Explain why. Your response should be a minimum of 400 words and contain at least two paragraphs.
   2. Write a letter to the author in which you express your opinion of their work and ask them to answer at least two questions you have about the text. Your letter should be a minimum of 400 words and contain at least two paragraphs.

**Assigned Texts:**

**Required:**

*Wonder*- by RJ Palacios

**Secondary:**

*The One and Only Ivan -* by Katherine Applegate (BOTB)

*Hana’s Suitcase* - by Karen Levine (BOTB)

*Crash -* by Jerry Spinelli (BOTB)

*Long Walk to Water* -by Linda Sue Park

*Rain Reign* - by Ann M. Martin

*Out of My Mind*- by Sharon Draper