

Dear Parents of Rising 7th Grade Students,

The best way for a child to improve proficiency in reading is to READ. This should be done on a consistent basis to acquire the maximum benefit. Some time each day should be spent engaged in reading, whether it is a novel, a recipe, an article, or the comics.

This summer each student is required to read **at least** three books. Additionally, the student must write a **three to five sentence** opinion paragraph of each book read. The paragraph may begin similarly to the following: I enjoyed _____ because it was full of adventure and suspense. Students should use details from the story to indicate their like or dislike of the novel.

Of the three novels required, one is a mandatory selection, Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling. This realistic fiction novel revolves around a young girl with a disability and her ability to rise above it and challenge others to do the same. Rather than an opinion paragraph about the book, the student needs to write (type) one solid paragraph (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of a page) that answers this question: Which character best demonstrates courage? The first sentence will restate the question and answer it. (Ex. _____ from Dusti Bowling's Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus demonstrates the most courage.) The student should then provide evidence (specific events) from the novel that proves why this character best demonstrates courage. This should be completed after the student reads the novel. I also highly suggest that your child reads this novel **close to the beginning of the year** as we will begin our literature class with activities related to it. We will **not** reread the novel at the start of the year.

I encourage you to use online services for access to powerful books. I also encourage students to take advantage of local summer library programs.

Students should return the first week of school with two opinion paragraphs for the books of choice, a list of other books read if applicable, and the $\frac{3}{4}$ page minimum paragraph that answers the above question. Have an enjoyable summer! I look forward to having your child in class next year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. C. Williams

NOTE: There are various websites offering English grammar practice, punctuation practice, and creative writing opportunities. Take advantage of these on a rainy summer day. Below are two great examples.

[Education grammar games \(https://www.education.com/games/grammar/\)](https://www.education.com/games/grammar/)

[Grammar monster games \(https://www.grammar-monster.com/\)](https://www.grammar-monster.com/)