

Dear Parents, Guardians and Future 7th Graders,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the Clearview Regional Middle School. All students in our English programs engage in summer reading experiences that are aligned with our courses of study. The summer reading program requires all incoming seventh graders to read an assigned book. Students are required to complete the summer reading assignment for the first full week of school. This assignment will serve as the first homework/classwork grade for the year. In addition to the independent assignment, there will be follow-up assignments given in the first few weeks of school. Most importantly, the summer reading text has been chosen as a foundational text for developing reading skills, in conjunction with memoir and biographical content that will be addressed during the first marking period.

We encourage all students to take advantage of additional reading experiences during the summer. Students who wish to experience additional texts can contact any one of the CRMS 7th Grade Middle School teachers. Additionally, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to an exciting 2011-2012 school year!

Finally, Clearview Regional High School District develops its curriculum in order to best serve the district's mission and meet the subject-area benchmarks established by NCLB and other local, state and national criteria for curriculum development. We recognize that adolescence through young-adulthood is a time when students of the same age are at different maturity levels, so the selection of materials is undertaken with care and deliberation. The English Department selects literary texts that reflect a diversity of perspectives, are age-appropriate, are high quality literature and are useful to fulfill the district's mission and the course's benchmarks. Parents are encouraged to investigate the texts explored by their children; we urge parents to take an active role in helping our students to develop admiration for the elegance and richness of human expression.

Enjoy the summer months as you prepare to make the transition to the middle school and know that we are preparing to provide all students with a strong foundation in literacy.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Veronica Bills

Ms. Heather Renshaw

Mrs. Teresa Souder

7th Grade Writing Task: Summer Reading

Students should consider the following questions before, during, and after their reading. The questions will be discussed in class when students come to school in September. It is recommended that students take notes in the margins of their texts if they purchase their own books. Students who borrow books from the local library should take notes or answer questions in a single subject notebook. All students will read *The Life and Death of Crazy Horse* by Russell Freedman.

- Try to connect some aspect of your life to the contents of this book. Has it informed you about yourself in any way? Can you make any other types of connections (text-to-text or text-to-world)?
- What would you be willing to change in yourself so you could gain something you admired in the book you read?
- What was the author's purpose in writing this book? Was it to inform/persuade with facts or opinions?
- What else would you like to know about this topic? Where could you go to find more information?
- What did you notice in the book that surprised you?
- How does this book differ from other books you have read? Did you find it easier or more difficult to read and why?
- In what other classes would this book be helpful, besides reading? How?

Contact Information:

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