

Name: _____

6th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Student 1: Why do we haaaaaaaave to read over the summer Ms. Teeeeeeeeeee? What if I just want to play video games, watch Netflix, and hang out with my friends?

Ms. T: Science and research actually have PROVEN that reading over the summer and keeping your brain active helps you do better in the next school year by avoiding the summer slide.

Student 2: Slide? But I like slides! That sounds fun!

Ms. T: No! The summer slide is when you lose a lot of key information you learned over the summer, and you actually come back to school at a lower level than you started out with.

Student 3: Ohhhhh. That's not good.

Ms. T: Exactly!

Student 4: So how do we avoid this slidey thing?

Ms. T: Well a good place to start would be summer reading!

Whole class: GROANS LOUDLY

Student 5: Is it lunchtime yet?

Ms. T: No!

Student 6: But you're going to make us read something long and hard and then write an essay and Ms. T that just sounds terrible!

Ms. T: Actually, it's going to look a little different this year. I found this really awesome book that I think you'll like a lot! And the assignment that goes with it is pretty simple, but I'll get to that in a minute.

Whole Class: Tell us more!

Ms. T: I want you reading, all summer. Constantly. At least a few times a week. BUT! I want you to read something that is a good fit for you.

Student 7: What the heck does that mean?

Ms. T: *I want you to read books that interest you, and that are on your right level. It's important to read things that work for you. It can be a graphic novel, it can be on the shorter side, it can be on the longer side, it can be about sports or anything you choose. You can read online articles, you can read with younger siblings, you can read reports about athletes, or even stay up to date on current events! I just want you to read constantly!*

Student 8: So we don't have to read a specific book?

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Ms. T: Well, yes and no. I want you to be reading books of your choice all summer, but there is one book that I want you to read as a whole class!

Student 9: What is it?

Ms. T: It's called *Restart* by Gordon Korman. It's a story about a middle schooler who has an accident and loses his memories, and literally has to restart all over again. It's really interesting, it's funny at times, and I thought it was kind of relevant since you all have to "restart" this year with your new transition to middle school.

Whole Class: OOOOOOOHHH that sounds kind of interesting.

Student 10: So what's the assignment?

Ms. T: A letter! You're going to write a letter.

Student 11: Like, the "you've got mail" type of letter?

Ms. T: Yes, a letter. Your letter will need to include:

- *The date!*
- *A greeting (Dear Ms. T)*
- *A paragraph that tells me about yourself and helps me to get to know you a little bit better. You might want to include your hobbies, your interests, a little bit about your family, what you like to learn about, etc.*
- *A paragraph that tells me about your summer.*
- *A paragraph that tells me about the book that you read. Think about including: Characters, plot, conflict, resolution, main idea, setting, etc.*
- *A closing signature, and your name.*

Student 12: Does it need to be handwritten or typed?

Ms. T: Handwritten!

Student 13: But I can't like type it and email it to you?

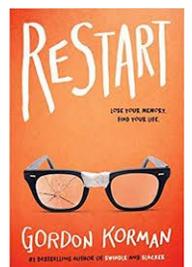
Ms. T: No! Write it by hand! It's good for your brain, I promise!

Student 14: So how do we get the letter to you? Are we going to find your house Ms. T?

Ms. T: There are several options! You can mail it to me here at school, you can drop it off here at school over the summer, or you can just hand it to me on the first day of next year!

Student 15: But what if we're not coming back next year?

Ms. T: You should still read all summer, but you obviously won't have to do this assignment. However, you will probably have some sort of summer reading for your new school, so be on the lookout for that!



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Example of a Letter:

June 18th, 2019

Dear Future 6th Graders,

My name is Ms. T, I am the middle school ELA teacher, and I am so excited to meet all of you! This will be my second year at All Saints, and I have some fun things in store for us. Over the next year in English, you will improve your vocab and grammar skills, you will get to work on your academic and creative writing, we will practice public speaking, and you will be able to read lots of cool novels!

A little bit about me: I graduated from Siena College with an English Ed degree, and I am about to start a Masters Program at Saint Rose for Special Education. I love ELA a lot, and I am super corny (in case you couldn't tell by the fact that I made a whole skit about summer reading). You will always find me with a coffee, and I will usually share snacks with my students if you ask super nicely. I'm also a musician--but you probably already knew that. I enjoy playing the piano and singing, and I am the music director at Siena College.

One of my favorite books that I read with my students is *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton--if you have me for 8th grade we will read it! I love that the author wrote the book when she was in high school--she didn't like the books she was forced to read so she decided to write her own and it changed the world. The story also talks about injustices in society which I think is a really important topic. As you know, our world can be a difficult place sometimes, so it is important that we practice kindness every single day--that kindness starts in my classroom.

I look forward to reading your letters, hearing about your perspectives on *Restart*, and hearing about your summers. Most importantly, I look forward to learning a little bit more about you! If you have any questions at all over the summer, feel free to send me an email! I can be reached at gtegiacchi@ascaalbany.org. If you're in the building at all over the summer, feel free to come up and say hello, you'll probably see me around.

Have a great end of your school year, a fun summer, and I can't wait to have you as my students really soon!

-Ms. T