

SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT 2010 GRADE 8

MRS. SEEDS

Reading a good novel is a great way to keep your brain in shape during those long summer days. I have chosen a beautifully written and exciting novel for this year's summer reading. Each student is **required** to read "**The Graveyard Book**" by Neil Gaiman. The winner of the 2008 Newbery Medal, it is a fantasy that grows from a singularly disturbing beginning. *Awakened when his family is murdered, a toddler wanders out of his house into a nearby graveyard. There he is taken in by the cemetery's ghosts who protect and raise him.* While it is bizarre and frightening, this book is also charming and filled with the sense of what a family should be.

You will be required to keep a response journal as you read this book. Use a spiral notebook with your name and the name of the book written on the front cover. Every few chapters, write one paragraph that records your reaction to the text. Also required, as part of your journaling, are your responses to the following:

- 1. Some of the vocabulary from "The Graveyard Book" is difficult. Find 10 words that you are unfamiliar with and make note card with the definition on one side and a drawing of the word on the other side. Please write the page number next to each new word that you use. You may paper-clip these completed cards inside your journal. Be creative with your drawings.**
- 2. Give examples of the *themes* of friendship and family in this unconventional tale of growing up.**
- 3. If you could ask the author, Neil Gaiman, one question about his book, what would it be?**

This book can be borrowed from the library or purchased from any bookstore or Amazon.com. It is a fun book and well worth the money.

The first week of school, our reading class will be devoted to discussion, journal sharing and a test on "The Graveyard Book." **Please bring your completed journals to class on August 23, 2010.** They will be graded and returned. These activities and test will be your first reading grades for the year. **Please have your parent or guardian sign the front of your journal when it is completed. Your completed journal will be worth 50 points and your test will be worth 50 points. I am confident that you will enjoy this book.**

Enjoy this book and have a great summer. I'm looking forward to another great year!

Mrs. Seeds