



Dear Upper El Students,

As part of your preparation for the upcoming academic year, you will be asked to read two books over the summer. You will provide documentation for both of the books you read. Please read the assignments carefully. A step-by-step format is provided, but above all, please make the selections that seem most enjoyable to you! Your second book can be chosen from the suggestion list below. All work is to be brought in on the first day of school. It is strongly suggested that you do read more than the required two books. Reading at least 20 minutes every day will allow you to continue progressing along your reading journey.

Have a great summer!

Ms. Celia and Mr. Chris

ALL Upper El Students:

The required book is *Odder*, by Katherine Applegate. Please check out the instructions below.

For your second book, you may choose from the list below. You will create a book recommendation to share with the class in August. Your recommendation should include a summary of the plot as well as an introduction to the main characters. Please include why you liked or didn't like the book and why you do or do not recommend the book to your classmates.

If you like Fantasy and Adventure, you'll love:

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

*The Lion of Mars* by Jennifer Holm

If you like Realistic Fiction, you'll love:

*Hotel for Dogs* by Lois Duncan

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

*Restart* by Gordan Korman

*Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

If you like Historical Fiction, you'll love:

*Allies* by Alan Gratz

*Stepping on the Cracks* by Mary Downing Hahn

*The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani

*Rescue* by Jennifer A. Nielson

If you like Mystery, you'll love:

*The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

*Summer of Fear* by Lois Duncan

*The Girl in the Locked Room* by Mary Downing Hahn

*Odder*, by Katherine Applegate

Directions: Choose one of the following assignments to complete and be prepared to present it to the class upon our return after summer vacation.

1. COMIC BOOK. Turn the novel into a comic book. Draw and narrate a comic version of the novel using characters and situations in the novel. For your presentation, you must display and read your comic book to the class. Be prepared to answer questions about the comic book.
- 2.SOUNDTRACK: Choose a character from the novel and create a soundtrack for their life. Find at least four songs that reflect the character's personality and current life situation. No explicit lyrics. Put these songs onto a flash drive to share with the class and create an album cover for the soundtrack. In addition, you will need to write one or two paragraphs for each song, explaining why you chose it. For your presentation, you must share clips from each song on your soundtrack and explain why you feel they represent the character.
3. RESEARCH: *Odder* was partly based on the real life Monterey Bay Aquarium in California that pairs orphaned otters with surrogate mothers. Conduct research on another real life Aquarium or Marine Science institution and write a paragraph describing what kind of programs that institution utilizes to assist at-risk animals. Include an illustration of your findings!