

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We look forward to summer with a sense of possibilities - upcoming vacations, reconnecting with friends and more free time to relax. It also provides us with exciting reading opportunities. Reading over the summer is incredibly important for students and their academic achievement. Throughout the school year, students work on building a reading life, and the primary purpose for summer reading is for students to maintain their reading life during the summer months. Research findings show that students need to read during the summer to sustain their independent reading levels, retain what they have acquired during the school year, and enhance their reading skills. Numerous studies indicate that students who do not read or read infrequently during the summer months see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. The goal of our summer reading assignment is to encourage the valuable habit of reading through books that will spark curiosity, humor, and interests which will keep your child reading.

Your Summer Assignment

1. All incoming **Grade 8** students at Thomas Jefferson Middle School are encouraged to read the book titled, **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas**, by John Boyne, for **extra credit** in September.
2. Write a short summary of each chapter.
 - a. Continue this in your 7th Grade Reading Notebook, or you may use any notebook you may have.

How to Get a Copy of "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas"

1. This book is available at Lodi Memorial Library for you to check out for FREE
2. There is also a FREE PDF of the entire book online:
 - Google: "The Boy In The Striped Pajamas PDF" → the first search result is the free PDF of the book

How You Will Be Graded for Extra Points

1. Your summaries will be collected at the end of September by your child's language arts teacher.
2. The summaries will count as **extra points** towards the first marking period grade.

The intent of this assignment is to provide students the opportunity to relax and read a novel that they will enjoy and appreciate a love for literature. Please encourage your child to read the book selected for our grade 8 students and with your support our language arts staff can start off the new school year in September on a positive note.

Have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Grade 8 Language Arts Teachers

