

May, 2019

Dear Incoming Seventh Grade Students and Parents,

While you are enjoying your summer vacation, the Albuquerque Academy English Department would like to encourage you to make reading a part of the fun! To that end, we are asking that you include time for (at least) two books this summer.

**Book Number One:** We would like every student entering the 7th grade to read *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, in preparation for intensive discussions in our first English classes. Even if you've read or been read this story in the past, please go back and re-read it with fresh eyes. Good books like this one tend to offer up more and more insights as we mature.

Once you've finished reading, please write out five open-ended, theme-like questions that you think will generate meaningful discussion about the book. These questions should require you to move beyond *what* happened to *why* things happened and how they might be important. They look at the big picture and large concepts. Bring those questions and a copy of the book to your first scheduled English class.

Copies are widely available online, in local bookstores or libraries, or from the AA library over the summer. We will be using the Laurel Leaf edition, ISBN 9780544336261. You may bring an older version if you have one; just keep in mind that you may have some trouble matching up page numbers as we talk about the book in class.

**Book Number Two:** For your second book, please choose from the list on the LibGuide site:

<http://albuquerqueacademy.libguides.com/summerreading6789>

There's a little bit of everything there, so please research the titles and pick something you haven't read before. All of the titles are available this summer at the AA library or through bookstores and the public libraries. Once school begins, you will receive an assignment on the book you chose. You will not need to bring this book to class unless you teacher asks you to do so.

We realize that for many of you this will just be the starting course for a summer full of reading. For those of you who are not so keen on settling down with a book, we hope you will find something you can enjoy, perhaps even something that will lure you on to further reading. In any case, read, relax, and we'll see you in August!

Sincerely,

7th Grade English Teachers

Elizabeth Payne

Chris Kelly

Chair of the English Department

Emily Myer

Melanie Peterson