November 2018

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

We hope that you enjoy the December winter break and February ski week. Wherever you may be, it will be a great location to spend time continuing to develop your skills by reading at least one book. Attached you will find a list of suggested titles that you can enjoy during our winter break. This will help prevent “vacation slide” and keep your vocabulary and English language abilities growing during school recesses. As always, our goal is to develop your skills as lifelong readers and thinkers.

Continuous reading is an important part of maintaining—and enhancing—English skills. As you enjoy your time away from school, we encourage you to read as much as possible both in English and in other languages. As you read, consider themes of your books as they relate to identity and individuals’ roles in society by asking yourself these questions:

- What problem did [character] want to solve?
- What did [character] do to solve the problem?
- What happened as a result?
- What did [character] learn?
- What does the author want me to learn?

If you are reading a more complex novel, pay close attention to deeper symbolism and subtext in the book. This includes literary techniques such as:

- Similes (ex. as busy as a bee)
- Metaphors (ex. He drowned in a sea of grief.)
- Characterization (ex. direct and indirect character traits)
- Plot structure (identifying main events in a story and their importance to its development)

Students will use these more advanced literary skills in January as we begin a writing unit relate dto analyzing and evaluating literary devices used in assigned historical fiction novels.

We hope that you will find a book that is both thought-provoking and enjoyable. The attached list of suggested books represents a variety of cultural issues, author perspectives, and a combination of classic and modern writing. This includes books awarded the Golden Cowbell by librarians from the Swiss Group of International Schools (SGIS). Additionally, some of the books address mature topics. Before you select a book, do a bit of research by visiting the school library or reading about the book online to make sure it is appropriate for you in terms of content and vocabulary.

If you have any questions, please Email your English teacher. We look forward to hearing about your reading in January!

Sincerely,

English 7 Faculty
Realistic Fiction

Now is the Time for Running, 2013
By Michael Williams (650L)

SGIS Golden Cowbell
Piecing Me Together, 2017
By Renée Watson (680L)

Ties that Bind, Ties that Break, 2000
By Lemsey Namioka (830L)

A Separate Peace, 1959
By John Knowles (1030L)

Fantasy Fiction

The Girl Who Drank the Moon, 2016
By Kelly Barnhill (640L)

A Monster Calls, 2013
By Patrick Ness (730L)

The Amulet of Samarkand, 2003
By Jonathan Stroud (800L)

Journey to the Center of the Earth, 1864
By Jules Verne (1030L)

Non-Fiction / Biography

Vincent: The van Gogh Brothers, 2017
By Deborah Heiligman (900L)

The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Impossible… on Schindler's List: a memoir, 2013
By Leon Leyson (1000L)

By Saroo Brierley (1030L)

By Margot Lee Shetterly (1120L)