

June 2009

Dear Incoming Fifth Graders,

Congratulations on completing fourth grade. We hope you have an enjoyable summer. Summer vacation offers us opportunities to do some things we don't always have time to do during the school year – take trips, see family and friends, go to camp – the list could go on and on!



While we hope that you have a chance to rest from many of your “typical” school activities, we are going to ask you *not* to take a break from a fun and often refreshing activity – reading! Why read? When you read, you can visit faraway places, meet new friends, encounter people who face similar joys and sorrows, or become a detective and solve mysteries! This summer, your fifth grade teachers want to encourage you to make time for reading.

Your Assignment:

1. Buy and read the book *A Long Way From Chicago* by Richard Peck. Be prepared to discuss and write about this book when you return to school. Please bring this book with you on the first day of school.
2. Please read 2 books written by one of the following authors this summer:
 - **Sid Fleischman**
 - **Christopher Paul Curtis**
 - **Lois Lowry**
 - **Louis Sachar**

Your two book choices do *not* have to be written by the same author. Be prepared to write about the books' main ideas, and why you liked the books.

3. Keep track of the books you read this summer, using the attached reading record. Of course, you are welcome (and encouraged) to read more. We will be excited to hear about the characters you met, the places you visited, and the experiences you enjoyed through your reading “travels”.

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade General Studies Teachers

