

# **Outside Reading:**

## Common Questions

### **Why did I get assigned this book? How did you choose it?**

*The first book of the year is chosen primarily based on MAP scores from 6th grade. As I get to know kids, and as kids complete outside reading assignments to give me more 'direct connect' data, I will adjust books based on need.*

### **Will I ever get a chance to pick my own books?**

*Yes! About half the time, I will give students specific books. The other half of the time, students will choose any book they wish to read: student choice books.*

### **How long do I have to read the book?**

*Students will have about three weeks to read books that I assign.*

### **How is 'pacing' a good way to plan out the book?**

*If kids have three weeks to read a book, they should know how many pages to read each week to complete the book. This will help them stay on track to finish.*

### **What's the best way to really hate a book?**

*Read a few chapters, start to see what's happening, and then go 4-5 days in a row without reading it. Interest, connections, and caring about what happens can disappear in that many days, and the book is suddenly very hard to enjoy.*

**What do I have to do when I read the book? Is there a packet or questions?**

*When I assign a book, students just need to read the book. Packets can take the fun out of reading. But remember- there will be a test in the end, so if you don't fail, you'll pay the price!*

**What if my book is too hard for me? I'm trying but I don't understand it.**

*Please come talk to me. I don't want students to have an experience that shakes their confidence and teaches them that reading is awful. We can find a book you'll understand and enjoy!*

**My book is boring. Can I trade for another book?**

*Sometimes, but it's good practice to muscle your way through a book that you're not enjoying.*

**How hard is the test?**

*If you read the book, the test will be straightforward. There are no tricks or curveballs.*

**What if I read the book and still fail the test?**

*Come talk to me. We can do a book talk, and if you convince me you read the book, I will happily raise your grade!*

**How do I get an '8' on this assignment?**

*I'm ironing this out, but two ways: you can read a book that's clearly above grade level and a real challenge, or you can show insight into a deeper meaning of the book instead of just surface level understanding.*

