Dear Rising 6th Graders,

Hi! My name is Ms. Vonnegut, and I have the pleasure of being your 6th grade English teacher, so I wanted to write and introduce both myself and the reading you’ll be doing this summer. You’ll be reading two books this summer:

- **When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead, a novel set in the 1970s on the Upper West Side. The novel is part mystery, part sci-fi, and part coming-of-age story, so there’s something in it for everyone.

Since we will discuss the book when you return to school, you will **underline** and **annotate** so that (a) you are closely engaged with the novel, and (b) you have useful notes to refer to when you prepare for class discussions.

Your **guiding question** is: What Strikes You?, so as you read, think of yourself as in written conversation in your book’s margins…

- with the characters about the plot and their journey.
- with the author about how she or he crafts this story.

**Some suggestions for your underlining and annotating:**

1. **Underline** passages that shows you something about a character’s personality/character traits.

2. **Underline** salient points – places in the text where the author reveals important information or details.

3. Put a ? in the margin if there’s something you don’t understand or want to know more about.

4. Put a * in the margin next to anything you find interesting, exciting, or important.

5. Any other marks you devise!

**Get in there, and mark that book up!**

**But don’t** think of these novels as your **only** reading opportunities this summer! Check out the Suggested Reading lists on the library website for more fantastic suggestions from our brilliant librarians - they’re up on all the latest in young adult fiction and beyond, so make sure you take advantage of their expertise!