Dear Rising 7th Graders,

Hi! My name is Ms. Vonnegut, and I have the pleasure of being your Form I English teacher in September, so I wanted to write and introduce myself and the reading you’ll be doing over the summer.

You’ll be reading Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, a novel framed as the diary of a boy growing up on a Native American reservation in Spokane, Washington. Through his written accounts, humor, and drawings, the reader follows him on his quest for opportunity, a better education, and just the other side of puberty.

You're almost seventh graders already, but there's about 13 weeks between the end of this year and the beginning of next. To make sure you don't forget what happens in your English summer reading book before we reconvene in September, you will **underline and annotate** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* 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.

**Think of yourself as in conversation with the book via your notes in its margins:**

- In conversation with the *characters* about the plot and their journey.
- In conversation with the *author* about how she/he crafts the story.

The point here is to **develop your own system of underlining and annotating** that will allow you to **engage actively** with the novels you read and to squeeze all kinds of juicy meaning from them. Practice will make perfect here, so don’t give up!

Also, **chapter summaries** (either in the book or on Post-It notes) are always a Very Good Thing.

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**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 book recommendations 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!