Dear Rising 6th Graders,

Hi! I know I’ve met many of you in the hallways, but I wanted to introduce myself: my name is Ms. Vonnegut, and I have the pleasure of being your 6th grade English teacher. Before you head off into the haze of summer, I wanted to write I wanted to let you know what you’ll be reading 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 a 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 salient points – places in the text where the author reveals important information
2. Underline passages that shows you something about a character’s personality/character traits. 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 notes and 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!