Dear Rising 7th Graders,

As you all know, I have the pleasure of being your Form I English teacher in September, so before you head off into the haze of summer, I wanted to introduce 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.

Since I know so many of you are avid gamers, I thought you should be included you in this year’s Browning Common Book, *Ready Player One* by Earnest Cline.

You’re almost seventh graders already, but there's about 12 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 before we reconvene in September, you will **underline and annotate BOTH** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, and *Ready Player One* 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. As I’ve said in class …

**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.

**I Recommend the Following …**

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!** (& yes, I will be checking!)

**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!