

Dear 8th Grade Students,

Happy summer! This letter is to inform you of the summer reading list and assignments for your English class. Please read and discuss it with your parents. It would be best to have a reading schedule to keep you accountable for your summer reading.

Required Reading: *The Hound of Baskerville* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Students should read *The Hound of Baskervilles* and take notes in order to have all of the background information for the dystopian world where this series takes place. They will then use these notes for discussion and the test that will be given.

SECOND BOOK: You may read any book of your choice over the summer. This book you will use to complete a book report. This will be **due September 3. YOUR PAPER MUST BE TYPED WITH COVER PAGE.**

The following information **MUST** be included. Each section could be written as one or two paragraphs. (Setting and time period may be combined in the same paragraph.)

- **Title and Author** - Introduce the book you are writing about.
- **Setting** – Where does the story take place? Is it a real place or imaginary? If the author does not state exactly where the story is set, what can you tell about it from the way it is described?
- **Time period** – Is the story set in the past, present, or future? How does the time period affect the story? Could it have taken place in a different era and retained the same impact?
- **Main characters** – Who is the story mostly about? Give a brief description of each.
- **Plot** – What happens to the main characters? Be careful not to report every single thing that happens. Instead, explain the situation of the main characters as the story begins, and include the basic plot element. Often, this will be the conflict of the story. Are the main characters trying to overcome something, achieve something, etc.? Next, describe a few more of the important things that happen to the main characters on the journey to the goal. Finally, describe how the conflict is resolved.
- **Your opinion** – Discuss the impression the book made upon you. Ask yourself what the author was trying to achieve and if he/she achieved it, in your opinion. What part did faith in God play in the book (even if He wasn't mentioned)? Discuss the larger ideas

the story conveys. How did you feel about the author's style of writing, point of view, etc.? Choose something that caught your attention, negatively or positively, and give your personal response.

If you have any questions regarding the book list, assignments, or specifications for your project, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'm available by email at shall@rmcademy.org. I look forward to seeing what you produce! Have a great summer.

Enjoy Reading!

Mrs. Sidney Hall
Upper School English Teacher