



**FIRST...**

**I REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE ON A NOBLE AND ASTOUNDING QUEST. ALONG THE WAY, YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF, OTHERS, AND THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF THIS WORLD.**

**THE FULL MYSTERIES OF THESE TREASURES SHALL NEVER BE COMPLETELY REVEALED. WE JOURNEY FOR THE SAKE OF EXPERIENCE AND DISCOVERY. WE TRAVEL IN SEARCH OF POSSIBILITIES.**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A STUDENT, WHICH OF COURSE DRAWS UPON THE FOLLOWING POWERFUL ROLES:**

**THINKER  
WRITER  
ARTIST  
DETECTIVE  
LEADER  
WARRIOR  
SEEKER**

**AND EVEN...**

**TEACHER**



***THE MAGIC BEGINS FALL 2011  
LET WHAT YOU LOVE BE A STRING OF LIGHTS AROUND YOUR HEART***

Dear Seventh Graders and Parents/Guardians,

Come one, come all to the second floor of 2355 Lake Street! What an exciting journey awaits you up here! I know this is true because I've had some experience guiding seventh graders along this recognizable yet different terrain.

In order to prepare you for our odyssey together, I am providing you with a very meaningful summer reading assignment. You are required to read TWO books; no substitutions are acceptable. These two books will provide an introduction to our studies in seventh grade. Also, we will refer back to the themes of these books throughout the school year.

Our two summer reading books are:

1. The Tao of Pooh, by Benjamin Hoff
2. The Little Prince, by Antoine De Saint-Exupery

My request is that you purchase a copy of each of these books so that you can highlight and write in them. You can find inexpensive copies from Amazon.com or at Green Apple Books (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Clement Street).

Please do the following assignment for **EACH** book:

1. A two paragraph reading entry for approximately **EVERY** 10 pages of the story. EACH entry must include:  
**-One important quotation (copied directly from the story and put into quotation marks.) Explain why the line is important, such as what it tells you about characters, conflicts, changes, or themes.**  
The rest of the two-paragraph entry can include responses such as:  
**-What are the personalities of the main characters? What are their motivations, dreams, and mistakes?**  
**-What are the conflicts in the story? How do the characters deal with them?**  
**-What is surprising? What would you change about the story if you could and why? How does the story remind you of "real" life?**  
**-Anything else that you find interesting or confusing.**
2. A **two-paragraph summary** of the main events in the book, including the setting (time and place).
3. A two page **collage of pictures** (cut out from magazines/drawn by you) and glued into the notebook. The collage should represent characters, scenes, themes, and important ideas from the book. The pictures can be of objects/places that are actually in the book as well as ones that you think represent the character or scene. Please make the two pages of the collage face each other so that you do not have to turn the page to see the whole collage.

Your reading notebook is due on the *second day* of school. During the *second week* of school, you will write an expository essay in class about the two books. You will be allowed to use your notebook for this writing assignment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the summer reading assignment. You can reach me at [d1mckee99@aol.com](mailto:d1mckee99@aol.com). I would love to hear from you! Until we meet again...Happy thinking, happy reading, happy living!

Respectfully and hopefully,

Ms. McKee