**Independent Reading Protocols & Cycles**

Parents / Guardians / Students:

This week we shall begin our formalized cycles for Independent Reading. You should keep the following information to stay informed about the procedures for this vital part of our class.

**Genre-Cycle Schedule**

The genre-cycle schedule is subject to change, as needed. Each genre-cycle is slated to run at a three to four week span. The first cycle begins next Thursday, September 7th. As noted below, we will begin with a fictional genre of your choice. Every genre –cycle that is identified as your choice is just that, your choice of **FICTIONAL** genre.

1 - Your Choice 2 – Realistic Fiction 3 – Auto/Biography 4 – Drama/Play

5 – Fantasy 6 – Historical Fiction 7 – Mystery/Gothic 8 – Your Choice

**Selecting & Having Selections Approved**

For each cycle it is your responsibility to print the “Independent Reading Application”, which can be found at the bottom of your class’s homework site. If you are unable to print the application, than it is your responsibility to recreate it, in its entirety by hand. The first application I will give you a hardcopy of and we shall fill in together.

On the assigned date, you should have your application completed and signed when you come to class. I will always ask for volunteers that wish to conference first, and then I will go through the remaining class. This process typically takes approximately two days. However, if you are unprepared when you are called, your application is late and will be graded accordingly.

When your application is approved, you have **committed to finishing the book**.

**During Independent Reading**

You should have your book every day for Independent Reading, until you have finished it. If you forget your book than you are unprepared for class; in such event, you should get a “temporary” text from the classroom library.

During Independent Reading:

* You are reading
* Actively making annotations for Conferences (see Reading Conferences below).
* Working on the assigned mini-project for that cycle

**Reading Conferences**

During Reading Conferences I will meet with sometimes one, or several different students. You can request a conference or I may inform you we are having one. Reading Conferences are our time for:

* You to seek clarification about areas are you are confused.
* You to share areas you are excited about or incite you have made.
* Me to check in with you on your progress and comprehension.
* Both of us to discuss to discuss your Mini or Post-Cycle Project (see Mini-Projects & Post-Cycle Projects).

**Mini-Projects (During Cycle)**

These projects will be smaller in nature and generally focus on a reading skill that we are currently studying in class (making inferences, drawing conclusions, using context clues, etc.)

**Post-Cycle Projects (After Cycle)**

These projects are larger and have a greater impact on your grade. They will focus on your completion and comprehension of your book.

**Common Questions & Concerns:**

Q: What if I want to change my novel after my application is approved?

A: The window for this decision is extremely small. You need to do it within the first week of the cycle and you should have an alternative book chosen. Lastly, the final decision is mine; sometimes, it is best just to finish the novel.

Q: What if I don’t finish my book?

A: Although, you should do your best to finish, occasionally this happens. You could always read it into the next cycle if it is a “Your Choice” or you might have to put it to the side for another day.

May I reread book that I have read before? Or may I read a book that I started before and didn’t finish?

A: If you are asking to reread a novel or finish one you previously, it must be extremely challenging. Often, books we have read before may be less rigorous than the level we should be currently reading at.

May I read two books at the same time?

A: Since we will also be reading a novel in class, I would avoid this decision.