



The IB Middle Years Program at Deal Middle School



8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment 2011

Summer is a great time to kick back with a book, whether it's at the beach or in your bed! This summer you will be required to read two books for school and complete one activity for each book (a total of two activities). Both activities are due on **August 22, 2011**.

Reading and writing are the best way to be prepared for the 8th grade. Therefore, we encourage you to read as much as possible and would love for you to record some of the books you read on the attached form. A list of suggested readings is posted on the school website (www.alicedeal.org).

The books you can choose from to complete the reading assignments and activities are:

- *Copper Sun*, Sharon Draper
- *House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros
- *The Color of Water*, James McBride
- *Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer
- *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary*, Walter Dean Myers
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, Malcolm X with Alex Haley

Activity #1: Essay

Originally the "American Dream" was defined as financial success. All of the main characters in these books have their own, different version of the "American Dream" – how they want to use the possibilities of America to change their lives. Choose one of the main characters that you encountered on this summer's reading list. What is his or her American dream? Is this a good model for American dreamers (people like you!) today? Why or why not?

Your product should be a five-paragraph essay:

- An introductory paragraph telling about the character and her or his American dream, including your thesis
- Three paragraphs, each explaining one reason why or why not this dream is a good model for people today
- A concluding paragraph summing up points and explaining why the reader should take an interest in your argument.

Activity #2: Character Analysis and Comparison

For the other book you choose to read, complete a character analysis and comparison. Use the main character and a secondary character from the book to complete *one* of the following two activities:

- Make a poster advertising and illustrating the book. On one half of a poster board, create a collage of images, words and quotations from the book that illustrate the main character. On the second half, create a similar collage that illustrates the secondary character. Use your images, words, and quotations from the text to show how these characters are the same and or different.
- Write a free-verse poem from the perspective of the main character. Have the main character describe the secondary character in the poem from his or her own perspective. Then write a second-free verse poem from the perspective of the secondary character where the secondary character describes the main character.

