



8th Grade Summer Assignment 2017

Welcome to 8th grade! Did you know that many students' RI scores actually drop between June and September? This is called "summer reading loss," and it actually matters! There's an easy way to avoid this, and it's great preparation for eighth grade: **Read as much as possible this summer!** Read whatever books you'd like and record them on the attached form. A list of suggested readings is posted on the school website (www.alicedeal.org), and your English teachers or Ms. Redekopp would be happy to make personalized recommendations.

In addition to their own personal reading, over the summer, **all eighth graders are required to read *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women***, edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. After reading, **you will complete two activities, both due on Friday, August 25, 2017.**

This I Believe is a book of short essays based on the popular NPR radio series of the same name, in which a diverse group of people describe beliefs that guide them. The book will help you think about your what *you* truly believe as you prepare for your final year at Deal and get ready for high school.

To help you make sense of this book, you have two activities to complete. You will need to read a total of seven of the *This I Believe* essays for the two activities, but we encourage you to read the whole book!

Activity #1: Illustrations

Choose **five** of the *This I Believe* essays that you found particularly interesting. For each, create an illustration (hand-drawn or on computer), on 8.5" x 11" paper, with a quotation from the essay at the bottom or as part of the illustration. Include your name and the name of the essay's author. **This activity will be a classwork grade due on Friday, August 25, 2017.**

Activity #2: Essay

Choose **one** essay that describes a belief you share and **one** essay that describes a belief you do *not* share. Write an essay in which you explain the two authors' beliefs and why you do and do not agree with them. Use the components of RACE (**R**estate the prompt, **A**nsWER the prompt, **C**ite evidence, **E**xplain evidence), citing evidence from both the essays *and* your own life. Since you are writing about two texts, your essay will need to have at least two body paragraphs, meaning that it will be at least four paragraphs in total. **This activity will be a classwork grade due on Friday, August 25, 2017.**

