

June, 2018

Dear Class of 2019,

I am excited to be your teacher again for 8th grade. Next year, we will study U.S. history, government, geography, literature, poetry, and we will continue to practice the writing process. This summer, you will be reading *Flowers for Algernon*, by Daniel Keyes which deals with friendship, hope, and ethics in Science. Eugene will be joining us in reading the novel and follow up activities such as discussions, research, and writing. You do not have to take notes or annotate – just read it and reflect on the story, characters, and themes.

In addition, I would like you to choose an independent reading book of your choice to read and enjoy. You will also read a chapter from one of the history sources we will explore next year.

1. *Flowers for Algernon*, by Daniel Keyes (provided)
2. Independent Reading book of your choice (Try a new genre! See reverse side for recommendations!)
3. Introduction and Chapter One from, *A Young People's History of the U.S.* by Howard Zinn (provided) Read and respond to comprehension questions attached.
4. End of Summer Reflection addressed to me (about your travels, highlights, hopes for 8th grade)
5. All due 1st day of 8th grade

Have a great summer and may you find many moments to play, read, relax, and enjoy! You may email me with questions at aquezada@sfschool.org. If you do email me, don't forget to check for my response!

All my best,

Araceli

Summer Independent Reading Recommendations ----->>>>>>>>>flip over!

Summer Reading Recommendations:

1. *The Book of Lost Things* by John Connolly
2. *The Hate U Give* by
3. *To Kill a Mockingbird*
4. *The Diary of a Young Girl*
5. *Fahrenheit 451*
6. *Ready Player One*
7. *The Outsiders*
8. *The Breadwinner*
9. *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
10. *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers
11. *The Lord of the Flies*
12. *Asylum*
13. *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
14. Books by Neil Gaiman, Stephen King, Marie Lu, Rick Riordan, Walter Dean Myers, Jason Reynolds, Lois Lowry,
15. *The Unwanteds*
16. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*
17. *The Hobbit*
18. *Uglies*
19. *The Book Thief*
20. *The Maze Runner Series*

A Young People's History of the United States, Introduction and Chapter 1
by Howard Zinn

Directions: 1) Read and underline key points in the reading. 2) Answer the following questions with a thoughtful (3-5 sentence) response. You may hand-write or type your responses.

1. Whose perspective(s) are present in Zinn's text?
2. What purpose does Zinn believe the telling of history serves?
3. Does reading this excerpt from Zinn change your understanding of the story of Christopher Columbus and the "founding" of America?
4. What does a "people's history" mean?