

Dear Students and Families,

Summer is the perfect time to read some great books! Our summer reading assignments are meant to provide continued practice over the summer and to prepare students for our areas of academic focus this fall. The required reading selection will be an important part of our integrated curriculum this coming year, particularly as we explore the continent of North America in general for this year's Continent Study. All summer reading assignments must be completed by the first day of school, August 21st. Students will each need to have a copy of the required reading book, *Paulo Santiago and the River of Tears* by Tehlor Kay Meija, in class beginning the first day. The other summer reading book, each student's choice, will need to be at school with their book project on Wednesday, August 21st.

Middle school students are required to read a total of two books over the summer.

All MS students are required to read this book:

- *Paulo Santiago and the River of Tears* by Tehlor Kay Meija

[https://www.amazon.com/Paulo-Santiago-River-Tears-Tehlor/dp/1368049338/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.com/Paulo-Santiago-River-Tears-Tehlor/dp/1368049338/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

As they read, students should pay close attention to the story elements (characters, setting, conflicts, and plot). They should also think about any connections they can make between themselves and the main characters. This will be the first book we discuss together at the beginning of the school year. There is no independent project to be completed for this book. Work will be done in class once school starts. All students are required to have a copy of this book at school.

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The second book required for summer reading is the student's choice and should not be a book he or she has previously read. There are many excellent young adult books available, including the titles recommended at the link below. The website provides a list of recommended titles appropriate for different age ranges. It is just one resource for discovering great books.

<https://www.readbrightly.com/summer-ya-books/>

\*Each student will need to create a project for the book he or she chooses independently (NOT *Paulo Santiago and the River of Tears* by Tehlor Kay Meija).\* The project should tell the class all the important details about the book your student read (title, author, genre, characters, setting, plot). All projects must be labeled with the book's title and author. Students may choose a project idea from the list included or create their own idea! Have fun and be creative!

Happy reading this summer!