Dear Middle School English Student,

I am so excited for you to be in my class next year! We will have a wonderful year full of learning and fun. Each year, our students are given summer reading assignments. This year, your assignment is to read two books and write a comparative essay on those books. I have already assigned the two books and you must read only those books which you have been assigned.

6th Grade books: Old Yeller and Where the Red Fern Grows
7th Grade books: Indian in the Cupboard and The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

After reading both books, you will type a comparative essay. You need to compare and contrast both books. I have attached a graphic organizer to help you organize your thoughts as you begin the planning phase of your writing. This will be due, along with your essay, on the first day of school. I have also attached the rubric that I will be using to grade your essay. Every required component is listed and you can see what level of work will give you the grade you desire.

Your essay should be typed into a Google Doc or Microsoft Word document. It needs to be a well-written, five-paragraph essay with a cover page. Your cover page must include your full name, grade, and essay title. The body of your essay should be in Times New Roman font, size 12 font, and each paragraph should be indented. When you turn in your papers, I want them in this order: printed cover page, printed essay, then your graphic organizer. It must be in a report cover.

Below is how many points you will receive for your summer reading work:

- Essay (60 points)
- Graphic Organizer (30 points)
- Cover Page (5 points)
- All documents are inside a report cover (5 points)
- 5 Bonus points if you donate your summer reading books to Mrs. Jones' Classroom Library