

Dear Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student,

I hope that you enjoy your summer and that you have time for rest, for fun, for friends and family, and maybe some time to keep your mind active! In keeping with the fine Trinity Middle School tradition, please complete the summer reading, the accompanying tasks, **AND** the literature and grammar skills review packet.

It would be wise to chunk your work; completing all at the beginning of the summer defeats the purpose and completing it all at the end will produce hasty work

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**This summer, you will be reading the 4th book we did not get to this year- a good 'ole classic *Where the Red Fern Grows*. I will be providing you with a copy, or you may purchase your own if you wish to annotate the book. Please complete the attached packet; you may complete the booklet format OR cut and paste the prompts on lined paper or into a small notebook to complete OR use the electronic version that will be emailed to you and your parents and posted in Google Classroom. Don't forget to bring back your book!**

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In addition to the task, you will be completing an essay upon return to school. The writing assignment you will complete during the first week of school will reflect on unit themes and essential questions. **You are also required to take some sort of notes as you read and to find good evidence that will help support the theme and essential question.** The back of this paper has a template you can use. You may make copies or use the electronic version in Google Classroom. This upcoming school year, our literature and writing will encompass 4 themes and essential questions. You will have the option to connect it to one of last year's unit themes or this year's unit themes. You do not need to do this at home! Taking notes will help you prepare for the first writing assignment next year.

Any questions, please feel free to email me at [kgaubatz@tlsonline.org](mailto:kgaubatz@tlsonline.org).

Blessings,

Karen T. Gaubatz  
Middle School Language Arts Teacher

**Note-taking for Red Fern**

**★ Chapter #**

**Characters and traits**

**Key Places in chapter/ setting changes**

**Brief summary or bullet points about key events or important details. Be sure to include any conflicts**

**Reflection, connection, question, wonder, or lit message**

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