***Parent/Child Interactive Reading Project***

***Due Friday, April 25, 2014***

Dear Families,

I am so excited about this new and exciting adventure in reading! Studies have shown that one of the best ways to increase reading comprehension is for a parent to read and discuss books with their child. This spring, our class will do just that.

For this project, you and your child will need to choose a book to read together. Talk with your child about their reading level, and try to choose a book that will interest both of you. You may either sit down to read aloud and discuss the book together, or you may read independently of one another and discuss what you have read frequently as you go. The objective is to engage your child in thoughtful discussions about the book frequently over the course of reading together. I have attached some questions to consider as you work on this project with your child. By the time you complete the reading of your chosen book, you should have discussed at least 10 questions with your child.

You will need to document your discussions and questions with your child. The may be done in several ways. A couple of ideas are to discuss the book orally and have your child take notes on the discussions; or to keep an interactive journal as you read. Your child should be able to explain how an interactive journal works. If you have questions about it after talking with your child, please don’t hesitate to let me know.

After completing the reading of your chosen book, your child will present the summary of the book in any number of creative ways. Regardless of the choice of presentation, all must include information to show a deeper level of understanding of character, plot, problem/solution, author’s purpose, story structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).

Some sample presentation ideas are:

* Film a “Reading Rainbow” type book review
* Create a poster advertising the book
* Make a trailer for the movie version of the book
* Design a book jacket for the book you read
* Film a talk show style “book talk” with your child

All projects should be as creative as possible. Any artwork must be full-color.

**The final presentation and written elements are to include the following:**

1. **Information that shows your child understands plot, problem/solution, and character development/traits (why a character might react or act in a certain way)**
2. **Any life lessons that were to be learned from the story (author’s purpose)**

**What is due?**

1. Answers (in complete, detailed sentences) to at least 10 discussion questions OR an interactive journal with required literary information highlighted in some way
2. A final presentation of your choice
3. A joint (parent/child) book review – typed in 12 point Arial font, double-spaced, 1 page minimum

***DUE DATE IS Friday, April 25, 2014***

There is no right/wrong way to complete this assignment. You are free to express yourselves in whatever way you would like. You only need to make sure that you include the required elements mentioned above. This would be a fantastic opportunity for you to really get to know what your child thinks about issues that our young people are facing such as bullying, body image issues, acceptance, stereotypes, etc. There are many amazing books written for a young adult audience that deal with these sensitive topics. This project could be a great bridge into some difficult conversations!

The next page contains several tips for how to get the best of your discussion as well as a list of possible discussion questions to help you get started. Please feel free to come up with your own questions for discussion as you read as well!

After you have reviewed the information with your child, please take some time to select a book to read together.

***The slip at the end of this packet should be filled out and returned no later than Friday, March 28, 2014.***



**Tips to Help Guide Book Discussions**

* **Decide on ground rules for discussion.** Ground rules might include having only one person talking at a time, not “putting down” or insulting others, and accepting differences of opinion.
* **Avoid having adults dominate the discussion.** While it may be necessary for the adult to get discussions going initially, make sure that your child’s voice is heard. Encourage your child to respond in detail, answer in complete sentences, and to ask questions of their own to add to the discussion.
* **Provide your child with adequate time to put their thoughts together.** Children vary widely in the time they need to speak, particularly if they feel as if they are “on the spot”.
* **Prepare discussion questions ahead of time** to ensure richer discussion.
* **Ask a wide variety of discussion questions.** Some questions to consider are “What did you enjoy about this book?” or “How did (a particular event) impact the outcome of the story?” Always try to challenge your child to provide longer, more detailed responses.
* **Select your book carefully.** When you choose a book that interests your child, is at an appropriate reading level, and raises issues that your child wants to discuss, book conversations are more likely to be successful.

**Questions To Guide Your Conversation**

* What did you enjoy about this book?
* What have you read that is similar to this book? In what ways was that book similar to this one?
* What are some of the major themes of this book?
* What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
* Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
* Consider the main character: what does he or she believe in? What is he or she willing to fight for?
* At the end of the book, do you feel hope for the characters?
* What is stronger in the book: plot or character development? Why? Do you think this was intentional on the part of the author?
* Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action in the novel?
* Did you find this book to be a quick read? Why or why not?
* What are your concerns about this book?
* How did you feel about the main character?
* What are the most important relationships in this book? Why?
* What makes a minor character memorable?
* What are the most revealing scenes?
* Are any of the events in the book relevant to your own life? In what ways?
* What did you think about the style of writing?
* Was the story credible? Were the characters credible?
* Did you find any flaws with the book?
* Compare the hardcover and paperback covers. Which do you like better? Why?
* What is the climax of the story?
* What does the author do to hook you in the beginning? To keep you reading? How can you use this in your own writing?
* Do you like the ending? Why or why not?
* What is the point of view?
* Pull at least two lines from the book and tell the author’s purpose or tell the author’s purpose of the whole novel. Was it to teach a lesson, bring understanding, persuade, or entertain?

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**Please complete and return this slip by Friday, March 28, 2014.**

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