

June 7, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As the summer draws near, we extend to you and your children our best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable vacation. We hope that as you plan your time together, you also look forward to enjoying the pleasures and adventures that reading good books can offer. We believe that summer reading should be an enjoyable pastime. We also believe that reading can expand one's personal interests. As you review the brief description for the assigned fiction title, we hope that the images, emotions, and ideas conveyed in the book will engage your middle schooler's heart as well as his/her mind!

All students entering Grades 6 are expected to read at least **one fiction book this summer**. The chosen fiction book will be ***Where the Red Fern Grows*** by Wilson Rawls. This is a young adult novel that will undoubtedly teach your young reader some very valuable life lessons such as the importance of setting personal goals and working hard to achieve those goals.

Taken from Amazon: "*Wilson Rawls' classic, timeless story of a young boy's coming-of-age is heartbreaking, sentimental, and utterly charming. An ode to love, family and the beauty of nature. Set in the Ozarks, northeastern Oklahoma, Billy wants nothing more than to have a puppy, or to be more specific, two puppies. He wants to train them for hunting. For two years he waits, collecting enough money doing whatever jobs he can, he finally raises enough for two Redbone Coonhound hunting dogs. This classic piece of literature beautifully captures the powerful bond between man and man's best friend.*"

Where the Red Fern Grows is very accessible as a paperback book, hardcover book, or even an audiobook. It can be found at a library, purchased at a bookstore or an online book store, or even as an online PDF:

[PDF copy of Where the Red Fern Grows.](#)

Students will be required to complete the attached summer reading assignment that goes along with the book. We believe this assignment will serve two essential purposes: 1. It will act as their guide as they read helping them pull out the important plot events and 2. It will prepare them to succeed on the test they will take on the book once they return to school in September. Additional enrichment activities will take place with this novel at the start of the new school year per each individual teacher's discretion.

We are implementing a One Book-One District approach for students entering grade 6. By reading one title, ***Where the Red Fern Grows***, teachers can refer to this book all year in English Language Arts, knowing that everyone has read it.

Of course, we encourage your children to read as many books as possible during the summer. We look forward to beginning the new school year by discussing the books your children will read this summer. We encourage you to read along with your children and enjoy the rewarding conversations that usually follow from reading an engaging book.

Sincerely,

Bridgewater-Raynham sixth grade English teachers

Where the Red Fern Grows -Wilson Rawls
 Chapters 14 & 15

Vocabulary: Below are words you need to understand for the text. We recommend defining the words before you read the chapter. Next to the word is the chapter where the word is located. Use a dictionary, dictionary.com, or context clues.

| Word | Define | Page # |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| solemn(14) | | |
| jubilant(14) | | |
| domain(15) | | |
| jinx (15) | | |
| superstition(15) | | |

Prompt: What qualities do Little Ann and Old Dan have that make them such great hounds?

| <u>Little Ann</u> | <u>Old Dan</u> |
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