

Good evening, Parents of Rising 8th Grade Students,

I wanted to reach out and make a suggestion for all rising 8th grade students. The first novel your student(s) will read in 8th grade English is *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. This is an award-winning classic novel and your students will benefit from our study of this novel. Having said that, it is also a novel with many characters and a complex plot line. It is for this reason that I want to suggest that all rising 8th grade students listen to this novel during the last couple weeks of July. The reason I suggest this is because being exposed to the characters and the complex plotlines before they are asked to read five or six chapters a week will help them comprehend the novel. While I cannot require that students listen to the novel over their summer break, I do want you to know that it will make their experience with the novel study a much richer and more enjoyable study. There is much to learn from this novel, and taking time to expose your students to the story line before we look at multiple chapters each week will benefit your student, and I believe they will enjoy the process much more. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions about this. I recommend the Sissy Spacek reading of the novel because it is my favorite. You can get this from I tunes or audible for around \$20. It can also be checked out of the Jacksonville Public Library on the Hoopla app. (Hoopla app is free with Jacksonville Public Library card.)

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