**8th Grade Humanities**

**Summer Reading 2021**

Hello Rising Eighth Graders!

Hooray, it’s summer! And with summer…comes traveling, relaxing, sleeping, various fun activities, and summer reading, of course!

This summer you are going to read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* tells the story of a young, free-spirited girl who moves from the tropical island of Barbados to cold, rigid Puritan New England in the17th Century, right as the Pilgrims are settling and surviving in this strange land called “America.” Kit Tyler, our vivacious young protagonist, finds herself in a community that is not only wrought with strict responsibilities and rules but is paranoid of any outsiders...especially those whom they think may be capable of witchcraft.

*The Witch of Blackbird Pond* tells a story of prejudice, religion, politics, and outcasts in a foreign land. Through this historical fiction, we will learn about various historical elements of early America and contemplate themes of identity, society, justice and judgment, and much more.

As you read the novel, you will be making the M.O.S.T.T. of it by annotating the text, marking key passages, paying attention to the different characters in the novel, noting new vocabulary words, and keeping an eye out for various themes. **See the attached document for directions on how to properly M.O.S.T.T.**

Your M.O.S.T.T. will be due the first week of school for your first test grade. Later, we will have an objective quiz and in-class essay over the novel during the first few weeks of class. In order to do well on the assessments, you *must* *read* the assigned text. (Reading SparkNotes, Wikipedia, or other summaries will simply not suffice.) If you read and pay attention to what you are reading, you will do well on the assessments.

Enjoy your summer and get excited for the 8th Grade. I can’t wait for our year together!

We wish you a wonderful and restful summer!

--the Humanities Department