



June 10, 2011

Dear Sophomores,

Well, it's that time of year again, time to read for fun. I always look at summer as the time to catch up reading that has interested me all year long, reading that friends have recommended, or reading a classic that I missed somewhere along the way. Extensive and regular reading is very important for many reasons, and it is a wonderful way to have valuable and varied experiences through words. It's also one of the only proven ways to improve standardized testing scores, and you are getting to be that age!

So what I would really like you to do is read as much as you can this summer; we will be doing a lot of it next year! Ideally you would read everything on this list, but, knowing that might not happen, I would like you to read four books from this list in addition to reading *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch.

Any book by Margaret Atwood

Any book by A.S Byatt

Nadine Gordimer, *July's People or Jump and Other Stories*

Jamaica Kincaid, *Annie John*

Par Lagerkvist, *The Dwarf*

Jumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*

Chang Rae Lee, *Native Speaker*

V.S Naipul, *A House for Mr. Biswas*

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*

I hope you have fun with these books. I'd love to hear your thoughts as you read, so don't hesitate to be in touch with me over the summer. I am really looking forward to working with you in the fall.

Ms. Henderson