



May 26th, 2015

Dear **New Seventh Graders**,

Congratulations! You will be entering the seventh grade in August. Summer is a time to relax and have fun with your friends - and also a time to choose some good books and keep up with your reading.

Remember that students who read over the summer do better in school than students who don't.

In order to support your literacy goals, SCJH requires you to read **two** books over the summer.

All 7th graders MUST read the following book:

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement

By Ann Bausum

Hardcover 2005 (used copies available at amazon.com)

ISBN-10: 0792241738, ISBN-13: 978-0792241737

In addition, you MUST read **one** title from the list below; starred titles are available to borrow from the school.

*Chronicles of Narnia Book 2 – The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis

Counting by 7s - Holly Goldberg Sloan

*Daniel's Story – Carol Matas

The Eighth Day - Dianne K. Salerni

Eye of the Storm - Kate Messner

Jack Strong Takes a Stand - Tommy Greenwald

*Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life – Wendy Mass

Jungle of Bones - Ben Mikaelson

The Night Gardener - Jonathan Auxier

Project Jackalope - Emily Ecton

The Secret of Rover - Rachel Wildavsky

*The Cay – Theodore Taylor

*The Egypt Game – Zilpha Keatly-Snyder

Seeing Red - Kathryn Erskine

Skink – No Surrender - Carl Hiaasen

Stung - Bethany Wiggins

Tesla's Attic - Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman

The Testing - Joelle Charbonneau

This Journal Belongs to Ratchet - Nancy J. Cavanaugh
Twerp - Mark Goldblatt

Task Descriptions:

Task details are on the next page. Complete these tasks independently over the summer. **The two paragraphs and the four graphic organizers must be signed by your parent/guardian.**

- Before you begin reading your summer selection, preview the paragraph prompts and the graphic organizers. You may want to use Post-Its to mark pages that contain information you plan to use in the paragraphs and graphic organizers. For example, when you notice a new vocabulary word, flag it for your chart. Fill in the graphic organizers completely, neatly, and accurately, making sure to follow the directions for each section.
- Ask your parent/guardian to sign and date the bottom of each paragraph and graphic organizer.
- Bring the work to class on the first day of school. The summer reading task will count towards your first quarter grade.

When you return to school in August: **You will earn dress down passes for any additional AR books that you read and successfully test for during the first week of school.**

Hints:

- Choose your book early to avoid being disappointed. There are limited copies of the starred titles available at school. If you borrow a book from school, please return it on time, so others can also borrow it.
- Your local library also carries copies of the listed books. Get in early!
- Alternatively, you can purchase used copies of the books very cheaply on Amazon.com.
- If you lose your book list or task description over the summer, you can find copies on the SCJHS website.

Have a safe and happy summer and see you in August!

Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Judisch, and Ms. Evans

7th Grade Language Arts/Reading Teachers

Cut here and return to your homeroom teacher ++++++

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|--|------------------|
| I am aware of the SCJH incoming 7 th grade summer reading expectations. | |
| Student: _____ | Flock: _____ |
| Parent/guardian: _____ | Signature: _____ |

1. Task Description: Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement

Answer **both** questions - 1 and 2. For each question, write a paragraph of approximately 300 words (half a typed page). You may either handwrite your response, or type it - whichever works best for you.

1. The opening chapters of *Freedom Riders* present the early histories of John Lewis ("Black America") and Jim Zwerg ("White America"). Born within months of one another, these men could not have lived more different childhoods. Yet each young man shared common experiences, too. Write to compare and contrast the histories of John Lewis and Jim Zwerg—from the condition of their homes and schools, to the role of religion in their lives, to the first moment when each one stood up for equality.
2. John Lewis, Jim Zwerg, and thousands of other people put their lives on the line for the Freedom Rides and other events of nonviolent protest during the civil rights movement. What causes might attract such sacrifice today? Does a commitment to nonviolence play a role in contemporary protest? How can readers of *Freedom Riders* respond to the calls for activism and civic involvement made by both John Lewis and Jim Zwerg in their forewords that accompany this book?

2. Task Description: *Book of your choice*

For the book of your choice, complete the following organizers. Samples have been provided to guide you.

You may either copy the organizers onto a separate sheet of paper, or download and print them from Mrs. Judisch's website.

3. Make at least three discussion thread contributions

On the SCJH Website, go to *For Students*. Scroll down until you see *7th Grade Summer Discussion*. This is where you will post your discussions.

Remember to ask your parent/guardian to sign each piece of work.

The 1961 Freedom Rides come to life in Bausum's book through the unflinching personal stories of two men uniting for a common cause: Lewis, the African American Southerner and Zwerg, the Caucasian Midwesterner. The dynamic book design includes Civil Rights song lyrics, first-hand accounts and provocative black-and-white photographs layered with lavender-and-gray panels. Exemplary documentation and end notes further illuminate the journey. Winner Image: Title of a book, article or other published item (this will display to the public): Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines