



PERIMETER SCHOOL  
A Covenant Christian Community

## Rising Eighth Grade Language Arts Summer Reading Assignment

Teachers at Perimeter School believe that summer reading is critical to a student's ability to practice fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary from the previous year and to continue to build these critical skills for the upcoming year. Literacy research studies indicate that students who do not read over the summer may lose at least two months of reading proficiency – still critical at the middle school level. Students who do read over the summer may gain a month in reading aptitude! We have chosen a rich, engaging novel unit for summer 2023 with the hope that students will want to learn and engage with the texts!

This year, rising eighth graders are required to read a contemporary memoir about a refugee and his/her family and the struggles and victories they experience. There are two different memoirs, one for boys and one for girls:

- Boys will read *Everything Sad is Untrue\** by Daniel Nayeri.
- Girls will read *You Bring the Distant Near\** by Mitali Perkins.

**Assignment One:** After reading your memoir, you will create a double-sided map. On one map, you will outline the country the characters are from and list at least 10 facts about that country. You must write the page number where you find each fact. Think about things like food, dress, weather, clothing, etc. Then, on the other side, you will outline their new home state or region in America. You will also list at least 10 things that are new to them in their new country (with page numbers).

**Specifications:** **Size:** At least 11 x 14 and no larger than 22 x 24 inches

**Design:** Colorful and appealing to the eye. You may use a combination of drawn illustrations and computer-generated ones (but not just computer generated!).

**Descriptions:** Correct spelling, descriptions, and page numbers of all items mentioned

**Due:** The first day of school - Monday, August 14

**Assignment Two:** Read the book of Ruth in the Bible. Write a *journal response* in which you compare and contrast Ruth's travel to a new land (the reason for it and the experience of the new land) and the experience that the main character in your memoir has in his/her new land. This will serve as a writing sample, so please do your very best. This must be typed (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced) and should be at least 10 sentences. This assignment is also due on the first day of school - Monday, August 14.

*\*Please DO NOT annotate in these books. They are on loan to you and will be returned, along with your projects, on the first day of school. Looking forward to discussing these two wonderful memoirs with you in the fall! Happy Reading!*