

GREEN ACRES SCHOOL

Summer 2012

Dear Rising Eighth Graders,

Summer is a time to savor the books that you would like to read. Therefore the summer reading assignment for this year is one in which 80% of the choice is yours. You are encouraged to read at least five books altogether, four which you choose, and one book which everyone is expected to read.

The assigned book for everyone is *Of Beetles and Angels*, by Mawi Asgedom. You will not need to purchase this book or check it out from your neighborhood public library because one copy of the book will be loaned to each rising eighth grader, with the expectation that the book will be returned to Green Acres School (Tina's class) on your first day back to school in the fall. *Of Beetles and Angels* tells the story of the childhood and early adulthood of a boy born in Ethiopia, who flees the civil war there, and then lives as a refugee in Sudan for a few years before immigrating with his family to Wheaton, Illinois. He overcomes the challenges of racial prejudice, language barriers, and financial disadvantage to build a successful life for himself. It is an inspiring story.

After you read *Of Beetles and Angels*, please take the time to write a one-page, typed, double-spaced reflection about it. This should not be a mere summary of the content of the book; instead, focus on the way(s) the book impacted you personally, influenced you as a student, and expanded your knowledge of the special challenges and opportunities of refugees and immigrants. Be ready to hand in your one-page reflection on the first day of school in the fall.

In addition, on a piece of paper, keep a list of the other (minimum four) books you read. Include the author's name and the book title. As the end of summer nears, let your creativity blossom and design an attractive way to inform everyone about the books you read. Your "list" will be displayed in the classroom, so be sure that it is neat, free of mechanical errors, and colorful. When you come to school in the fall, you will have an opportunity to share your summer reading, so be sure to bring the assignment with you on the first day back to school in the fall. Please also bring your copy of *Of Beetles and Angels*.

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy your reading.

Sincerely

Tina Chan

Language Arts Teacher