**8th Grade Language and Literature Summer Assignment**

Welcome readers and writers to 8th grade Language and Literature! We look forward to working with you during the next school year. As part of this course, students will read a fictional novel over the summer and complete a detailed plot diagram.

Reading over the summer helps keep the students’ minds “in the game,” and it adds to the number of major literary works the students will have read by the time they reach high school. Studies show that **students who do not read over the summer lose two whole months of knowledge. That means if you never read in the summer, you could be up to two years behind in school.** To help you stay ahead and be successful, we are providing you with a simple summer reading assignment.

Steps to success:

1. Choose a book off the provided list below.
2. The books will be available at your local library or school library for free. You can buy a copy from a bookstore (Half Price Books, Barnes and Noble, etc.), or you can purchase a copy on iBooks, Nook, Kindle, etc.).
3. Read your selected book.
4. Fill in the detailed plot diagram on the back of this sheet.
5. Turn in this handout to your Language and Literature teacher on the **first day of school next year. THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST GRADE FOR THE YEAR.**

Any questions that students or parents have should be sent to Shannon DeBoer at [sdeboer@dallasisd.org](mailto:sdeboer@dallasisd.org)

Book choices

*Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*Does My Head Look Big in This?* By Randa Abdel-Fattah

*The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger

*El Deafo* by Cece Bell

*The Maze Runner* by James Dasher

*UnWholly* by Neal Shusterman

*Legend* by Marie Lu

*Dorothy Must Die* by Danielle Paige

*Out of the Dust* by Katen Hesse

*Patient Zero: Solving the Mysteries* of Deadly Epidemics by Marilee Peters