

CIVICS: S. Marshall

## Welcome and Head Start on Reading!

2015 - 2016

*Welcome to the wonderful world of Civics.* I hope you find this new Civics class as interesting as I. We will have one full year to explore the fundamental principles and values of our free society. It is my wish that you will develop a profound understanding and appreciation of the foundation that our government was built upon. You will have the opportunity to work hard, develop critical thinking skills increase your writing skills and increase your reading and comprehension skills. I look forward to many good discussions that will keep you engaged and on topic. You will be involved in group work that will lead to a greater understanding of the content. You will engage in independent research assignments that will add a more profound understanding of the text content. Of course I will enjoy reading your papers, listening to your ideas and watching you grow as an American citizen with the capability of making better decisions as an adult.

As one can see, we have a busy year ahead, therefore, it is essential to **get a head start** by reading from the list of books below. After your reading is complete you will be ready to begin the conversations related to the question of whether we have too much government or too little government involvement in our lives. It is my fondest hope to instill the desire to preserve our American heritage and to instill the desire to become an active participant in our democratic republican process. I look forward to working with all of you during the 2015-2016 school year.

Mrs. Marshall sandra.marshall@stpsb.org

In preparation for this year-long adventure, you are to read two books: ***George Washington's Secret Six (The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution)*** by **Brian Kilmeade**.

*Read the biography on a personal quest for civil rights:*

*I have 7 copies in my room that you may check out.*

*Nook/Kindle books are usually quite a bit cheaper than paperback books.*

***Warriors Don't Cry*** by Melba Pattillo Beals

In 1957, Melba Pattillo turned sixteen. Melba was one of nine teenagers chosen to integrate Little Rock's Central High School. You will experience the many horrible ordeals that this brave 16 year old endured. She did not quit!

A fantastic read!

You must create your reading journal for *each book* that you read. ***All journals are due on October 5*** for the first book. **As you read**, you are to **keep a Reading Response Journal**. **BONUS 10 POINTS: TURN IN BOTH JOURNALS BY SEPTEMBER 22!**

*Mrs. Marshall*

2014-2015

### **Reading Response Journal:**

Every time you sit down to read, write your personal response in a reading log. Indicate the **chapter and date** of the reading session at the top of each entry. ***Use internal citations (page #).***

You may want this to be a notebook so that you can refer to your responses, or you may keep an electronic notebook that you print-out for **October 9**. State your **feelings, thoughts, reactions, and questions** about situations, ideas, actions, characters, settings, symbols, plots, themes, and any other elements in the story.

You cannot be wrong in your responses, so take risks and be honest. Write about what you **like and dislike**, what seems confusing or unusual.

Tell what you think something means. **Make predictions** about what might happen later. Remember your response journal is a place to record reactions and questions. ***Do not just summarize the plot.*** However, sometimes a brief summary will be necessary to clarify your ideas. Support summaries with what you are feeling as you read. ***Look for quotes*** that may be meaningful to you. Why did that quote strike you as meaningful? Does the quote have ***a larger application to humanity*** than just an individual? ***At least five quotes*** from each title. Remember that a quote does not have to be something a character said; it might be a line or lines that evoke something in you as a reader.

### **Suggestions for Journal**

I wonder what this means...

I really don't understand...

I like/dislike this writing because... This part is very realistic/unrealistic because...

I think the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is interesting because...

I like/dislike (name of character) because...

What you felt as you read.

Questions you have after reading.

What you felt about the style of the writing.

Anything you feel the author should have included/omitted

I like/dislike this idea because...

This character reminds me of somebody I know because...

This character is like (name of character) in (title of book) because...

I think this setting is important because...

This scene reminds me of a similar scene in (title of book) because...

### **Mrs. Marshall's Civics Supply List and Wish List**

Please remember to bring these items the first week of school:

#### **Supply List:**

- 1 Notebook to be used only for Civics
- 1 Pack of paper (no ragged edges turned in)
- 1 Flash drive to store information (does not have to be just for Civics)
- 2 Blue or Black ink pens
- 3 Highlighters that are not yellow
- 1 File folder to keep in the classroom
- 1 pack of sticky notes
- 1 pack of 3 x 5 index cards

#### **Wish List**

Any classroom supplies that you would like to donate would be appreciated.

- Paper towels
- Puffs
- Dry Erase markers
- Air Wick refills
- Hand sanitizer (huge)