8th grade Turn of River Middle School
2017 Summer Reading Program

8th grade students are asked to read <u>They Cage the Animals at Night</u>, a true-story of a young boy's struggle to survive, written by Jennings Michael Burch. Students must also complete **one** of the following assignments which is due on **SEPTEMBER 6th!**

Copies are available at the Ferguson library, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble. This information will be posted on the TOR website, **toronline.org**

GRADING CRITERIA & ASSIGNMENT CHOICES: Each requirement listed below (#1-5) is worth 10 points each. Total Project = 50 points

1). Whole Novel Collage: Create a word and/or picture collage representing the entire novel (main characters, major events, turning points, theme etc.). This must be done on a large sheet of drawing paper, no smaller than 81/2 X11). Include a paragraph explaining why you included the words and/or pictures) that you did.

1) ___*Visuals are neat, easy to read/follow & aesthetically pleasing*
2) ___*Words/Pictures make sense/are appropriate to purpose*
3) ___*Information that references the novel is correct*
4) ___*Written response clearly explains why visuals and words were chosen and how they reflect important characters, major events, turning points, theme*
5) ___*Grammar & Punctuation errors are minimal and not distracting*

2). Newspaper: Create a newspaper <u>about</u> the entire novel that includes sections such as classified ads, obituaries, news items, sports articles, cartoons, etc. Consider: what sort of columns or articles would this novel "inspire"? (sections, pictures, etc.) Think about what a newspaper looks like and try to recreate one that would have been printed during the setting of this novel.

1) ___*Visuals are neat, easy to read/follow & aesthetically pleasing*
2) ___*Words/Pictures make sense/are appropriate to purpose*
3) ___*Information that references the novel is correct*
4) ___*Sections of the paper clearly reflect important characters, major events, turning points, theme, etc. of the book.*
5) ___*Grammar & Punctuation errors are minimal and not distracting*

3). Songs / Poems: Select (from outside sources – famous poets / poems, famous song lyrics) or WRITE 10 poems / songs that you feel say something about the theme, mood, characters or settings of the novel. Compile these into a book / binder, and include for each an explanation of <u>why</u> you selected or wrote each poem/song.

1) __Songs/poem include/reference theme, mood, character and/or setting of the text.*
2) ___ Project is interesting, original & creative (in the use of quotes and information from the text as various elements of the project)*
3) ___Information that references the novel is correct___*
4) ___Written response clearly explains why visuals and words were chosen and how they reflect important characters, major events, turning points, theme*
5) ___Grammar & Punctuation errors are minimal and not distracting*

4). Essay: *By the end of the book, what did the author want readers to know? Identify the main ideas included in the book, and explain at least three main points with specific details from the text.*

1) ___Inclusion of name, incoming grade, book title, and author at the top of the paper.*
2) ___Introduction of the text with a brief explanation of what it was about ("[Title] was about...").*
3) ___Explanation of <u>three important points</u> the author wanted the reader to understand. In at least <u>three organized paragraphs</u>, explain each main idea.*
   a. *For each main point, make sure you include a specific detail from the text. If possible, include a page or chapter number. <u>Explain</u> why the author included this information as an important detail.*
4) ___Conclusion of paper explaining the author's overall purpose for writing the book.*
5) ___Grammar & Punctuation errors are minimal and not distracting*

<u>READING CHALLENGE</u>

We encourage students to continue reading *beyond* the assignment requirements. Projects are not *required* for additional books read but they will be accepted.

Go to the Governor's Reading Challenge website for a list of suggested books:
http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2683&q=320322

Additionally, students will receive recognition for additional books read provided that students complete the Governor's Challenge Summer Reading Book Log and submit it to their ELA teacher.

5 Reasons to Read
- **Increased Knowledge**
- **Vocabulary Expansion**
- **Improved Memory/Mood**
- **Improved Focus & Concentration**
- **Improved Writing Skills**

Lexile Measure (Lexile.com): The best way to use a Lexile measure is to match an individual's Lexile Level with a book that has a similar Lexile Level or slightly above. If these are matched accordingly, an individual is more likely to comprehend what they are reading. **8th Grade Lexile Ranges: Basic 899 or Below) Proficient (900-1150) Advanced (11250 or Above)**