E.T. RICHARDSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
SUMMER READING PROGRAM
2019
FOR INCOMING 6TH GRADERS
REQUIRED SUMMER READING FOR SIXTH GRADE STUDENTS:

All incoming sixth grade students will be reading Edward Bloor’s novel, *Tangerine*.

Edward Bloor’s award-winning novel *Tangerine* grabs readers by the collar on the first page and never lets go. Tangerine, Florida—once known for its citrus groves—is now an uninhabitable quagmire of muck fires and school-swallowing sinkholes. Still, twelve-year-old Paul sees the move as a way to start anew, maybe even make a name for himself in middle school soccer—despite his father’s obsession with his high-school-age brother Erik’s future in football. Paul is visually impaired (without his Coke bottle glasses), but it’s everyone else who seems to be blind to Erik’s dangerous nature. Written as a series of Paul’s journal entries, *Tangerine* is a gut-wrenching coming-of-age novel about truth, memory, culture, courage, social consciousness, classism, the environment . . . and soccer. Paul is a character well worth cheering for. Underdogs of the world, unite!

Awards: ABA’s Pick of the Lists, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book, Horn Book Fanfare Selection, IRA Young Adults’ Choice, New York Public Library 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing

AS YOU READ YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- **Plot Development**
  - Plot is a literary term used to describe the events that make up a story, or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story.

- **Character Development**
  - Character development is the process of creating a believable fictional character by giving them depth. You can think of internal character development as a circle: one that starts and ends with your character’s fundamental goals and motivations.
• **Theme**
  
  - The theme in a story is its underlying message, or 'big idea.' In other words, what critical belief about life is the author trying to convey in the writing of a novel, play, short story or poem?

**UPON RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL:**

**All students** will engage in an introductory unit to sixth grade. This unit will cover *Tangerine* as well as introduce key concepts that will be studied through the year. At the end of the unit there will be an assessment on *Tangerine*.

If you read *Tangerine* at the start of the summer, please review the text prior to the start of the school so that you are able to actively participate in class discussions and activities.

***Reading 6 students do not have an additional written assignment.***

*** Along with reading *Tangerine*, **Reading 6 Plus students** need to complete **ONE** of the following assignments:

1. **Respond:** Students will respond to a variety of comprehension questions ranging among the literal, interpretive, and critical levels. These questions will require the use of higher order skills and citing of evidence from the text.
   
   - **Answer a minimum of 5 of the 10 questions.**
     
     - Explain why Erik’s family moved to Florida.
     - Describe the Erik Fisher Football Dream.
     - Describe the events surrounding the death of Mike Costello.
     - Why did Erik’s football records get wiped out of the record books?
     - How did Paul lose his sight and how did the Fishers deal with the situation?
     - Why do Paul’s parents ignore Erik's cruelty?
     - Why is Paul transfixed by the Boy Who Never Grew?
     - What commentary is the author making about sports in American life?
     - What does the lightning and muck fire symbolize?
     - How would you describe the Fishers, their values and priorities?
2. **Create:** Students will choose one of the following interdisciplinary activities to complete:

- In this novel, Bloor parallels three sets of brothers: Erik and Paul, Mike and Joey, and Luis and Tino. Compare and contrast the differences and similarities of the relationships that these brothers share.
  - You should have a minimum of 8 items that you compare/contrast. Be sure to develop your ideas fully; we should not receive fragments of sentences as your examples.

- Write a speech explaining how lightning is formed and guidelines for athletes and fans to avoid injury from lightning.
  - Your speech should be typed, double spaced, one inch margins, and a minimum one full page.

- Pretend **Tangerine** is going to be made into a movie. It's your job to design a poster that advertises the movie.
  - What actors and actresses would you have appear in the movie? What roles would they play? Why?
  - What kind of colors/scenes/images/background would you use in the poster?
  - *Movie Poster Requirements*
    - This should be no smaller than one half of a poster board and no bigger than a full poster board.
    - It should be neat and colorful.
    - No more than 50% of your poster may be computer generated. At least half of the poster must be your own.
    - You must include an explanation of why you chose certain actors, colors, images, etc. Your explanation should be typed, double spaced, one inch margins, and a minimum one full page.
    - Must be neat.
    - Grammar/spelling must be correct.