



Summer 2009

Dear Rising Form II Families,

It is hard to imagine Tiger Woods would be as good as he is without practice. Even in the off-season, Tiger works continuously to improve his game. I remember Mrs. Busnack telling me that Sir James Galway, the renowned Irish flautist, practices *every day*. There is no true “off-season,” because it is imperative to maintain skills – and even to improve them!

We believe that one of the most important habits to develop during school years is a love of reading; therefore, we feel it is vital for students to continue reading throughout the summer.

Students entering Form II will read *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jiménez and *Monkey Town: The Summer of the Scopes Trial* by Ronald Kidd. The required books will be an important part of English classes in the fall. Class discussions and, perhaps, an essay assignment will be based on your summer reading. Students entering Form II will also have a summer writing assignment corresponding to the book. The assignment is listed below.

The purpose of the summer writing assignment is to provide your new English teacher with a sample of your written work. This will provide a sense of both your thought process and writing style as we begin the new school year. *These are not graded assignments.* They are, however, extremely valuable and should be approached in the same thoughtful manner one would approach a graded assessment. The assignments and guidelines are included on the reverse side of this letter. Form II students should bring their completed assignments with them on the first day of school.

In addition to the required summer reading, we ask that students read other books that simply interest them. If they like sports, read books on sports; if they like mysteries, read mysteries. What is most important is that our students *read*.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Philip S. Cox
Middle School Director

The Pingry School
Summer Reading: Writing Assignments
Students Entering Form II

Summer 2009

Write a 300-500 word response for each question.

Breaking Through by Francisco Jiménez
ISBN: 978-0618342486

Write two journal entries for Francisco: (1) an entry for when his family is sent back to Mexico and he is left alone with his brother, and (2) an entry for when he is graduating from high school.

For each journal entry, discuss his feelings at the time. What concerns him? How does he manage his fears?

Monkey Town: The Summer of the Scopes Trial by Ronald Kidd
ISBN: 978-1416905721

Write a letter to a friend and tell why s/he should read this book about the Scopes trial. Was it good because of the historical view? For the personal view? Or both? Be aware of who is reading your letter. Since this story is based on a girl's experience, be sure that if you write to a boy that you point out things that a boy would like about it. The same holds true for a girl reader.

When you are recommending a book, it is always good to say why you liked the book. Use multiple examples from various chapters to interest your reader without telling the friend too much about the book. In other words, do not reveal the plot. The person should want to read the book after reading your review, so do not reveal too much. This is a book review, not a book report.