

"The best of a book is not the thought which it contains, but the thought which it suggests;
just as the charm of music dwells not in the tones but in the echoes of our hearts."

John Greenleaf Whittier

Summer 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Secaucus Middle and High Schools are introducing a new summer reading program for the 2010-2011 school year. Our teachers strongly believe that reading is an essential component in helping our students to think critically and creatively. Reading instills in them a rich vocabulary, gives them food for thought, and encourages them to seek knowledge beyond the pages of books. When reading a class novel, students experience the sharing of unique ideas and perspectives with their classmates.

With that in mind, each grade/class will be assigned one novel to read and respond to over the summer vacation. It is our hope that by having students read the same book, we can begin the new school year in a more unified way. All the books that have been chosen can be found at any library or bookstore in paperback form or ordered online. Students will be responsible for completing the novel guide that corresponds to their assigned novel (see reverse), and should be prepared for class discussions about the book when they return to school in the September. We also encourage students to read books this summer that appeal to their own individual interests, and look forward to discussing the assigned books when we see them in September.

Sincerely,

Deidre Ertle
Principal
Secaucus High School

Robert Daniello
Acting Principal
Secaucus Middle School

Christine Candela
Summer Reading Chair
English Department Facilitator

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

By Mitch Albom

**Please return this assignment to either your English or resource teacher on
September 15, 2010.**

Section I- Characters:

On a separate sheet of paper, write a short paragraph describing each character (consider their likes and dislikes, their conflicts throughout the story, their relationships to other characters, etc.)

Eddie

Dominguez

Eddie's Mother

Eddie's Father

Section II- Quotations:

Quotations: As you read this novel, record 5 quotations and discuss what each means. Write a response to each of them on a separate sheet of paper. Explain what the quote means to you and why you think it is important. Be sure to write the page number where you found each quote.

You may use the following items to help you write your reflections.

- Character development: What do we learn about the character's personality?
- Themes: What do you think the author was trying to show you?
- Feelings such as pity, contempt, admiration, exasperation, or compassion.
- Confusion over issues that the quote brought forth
- Humor that you may find along the way

Section III- Theme

Essay:

Write a short essay where you summarize the novel. Try to explain what you felt the theme, or point of the story was and also include your opinion of the novel. Would you recommend this novel to a friend, why or why not? Be specific.

****Any word you do not understand in the above assignment, you are expected to look it up in the dictionary.**