7th Grade Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment

Choose one of the two books to read below, then complete the assignment on the reverse of the page.

This assignment is DUE COMPLETED on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL to your Pre-AP ELA 7 teacher for a major/test grade.

Option 1 - Dark Water Rising by: Marian Hale

Galveston, Texas, may be the booming city of the brand-new twentieth century, but to Seth, it is the end of a dream. He longs to be a carpenter like his father, but his family has moved to Galveston so he can go to a good school. Still, the last few weeks of summer might not be so bad. Seth has a real job as a builder and the beach is within walking distance. Things seem to be looking up, until a storm warning is raised one sweltering afternoon. No one could have imagined anything like this. Giant walls of water crash in from the sea. Shingles and bricks are deadly missiles flying through the air. People not hit by flying debris are swept away by rushing water. Forget the future, Seth and his family will be lucky to survive the next twenty-four hours.

Option 2 - The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic by: Allan Wolf

Millionaire John Jacob Astor brings home his young bride. A beautiful Lebanese refugee, on her way to family in Florida, discovers the first stirrings of love. And an ancient iceberg glides south, anticipating its fateful encounter. The voices in this remarkable re-creation of the Titanic disaster span classes and stations, from Margaret ("the unsinkable Molly") Brown to the captain who went down with his ship; from the lookout and wireless men to a young boy in search of dragons and a gambler in search of marks. Slipping in telegraphs, undertaker reports, and other records, poet Allan Wolf offers a breathtaking, intimate glimpse at the lives behind the tragedy, told with clear-eyed compassion and astounding emotional power.

7th Grade Pre-AP Summer Reading Assignment: Character Diary

1. Pick one character who intrigues you.

2. Create a personal diary or journal for that character (handwritten & bound **OR** typed, printed and bound) which depicts the major events happening in the story—both "seen" and "unseen" in the text itself. You are writing as if you are that character, from his/her viewpoint and perspective, in the first person narrative form.

You will be required to write a **minimum of 6 entries**, using **one of each of the four modes of writing** (see examples below), with the **other two entries** as a responses **of your choice** *(example: picture, cartoon strip, share a personal connection to your character, or give your character some personal advice about a decision he/she made or should have made.)*

Examples of Journal Entry Modes

- A *descriptive entry*—Use strong visual and sensory images to create a lasting impression on your reader. Anything can be vividly described—a room, a place, an object, a person, or an event that has significance to your character.

- A *narrative entry*—Detail a short story of a significant event including setting, characters, time sequence, brief plot, and dialogue.

- A *persuasive entry*—This entry will reflect your character's wishes for something (an action or person) and how they might write to obtain their wish. *For example*, think about the story The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka. What might Alexander T. Wolf write to the any of the three pigs or the townspeople to convince them that it was all a misunderstanding, that he didn't try the blow their houses down or intend to eat the pigs, but rather was just trying to borrow sugar?

- A *reflective entry*—Describe in detail what a significant event has meant to you the character personally. How it has changed you the character personally? What important lesson did you the character learn from it? How will you the character apply it later in life?

Each Journal entry is worth 15 points (Total 90 points)
Neatness and creativity in constructing your journal is worth 10 points.
Total Point for the "Character Diary Project" - 100 points.