Dear Incoming Petal Upper Elementary School Students,

The following books are required reading for the summer:

1) All the books (and I mean ALL the books) you really want to read!

2) Any of the books that your friend wants you to read and, once you start, you actually like.
   Here are some suggestions from your fellow classmates!
   - Wonder
   - Sports Illustrated for Kids Magazine
   - National Geographic Kids Magazine
   - Guinness World Records Books
   - Breakaway
   - Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
   - The Cay by Theodore Taylor
   - Mr. Tucket by Gary Paulsen

3) One (or more if you choose) of the books your mom/dad/grandparent/teacher/or any other person who looks a LOT older than you promises you will LOVE if once you start it you do indeed discover you do love it. For example:
   - The Mixed Up Files of Basil E. Frankweiler
   - Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling
   - Percy Jackson Series
   - A Wrinkle in Time
   - Black Beauty
   - Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
   - The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint Exupery

4) Something you think looks hard. You’ll discover if you really want to read it, it won’t actually be that hard. Such as:
   - I am Malala
   - Lost in the Pacific, 1942
   - Lost in Outer Space, The Incredible Journey of Apollo 13
   - Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere
   - Boy in the Striped Pajamas
   - Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
5) An author or topic you haven't read before. You might discover a new topic or author you really like!
Here are some great suggestions!

Mike Lupica Books: Heat; The Underdogs; The Batboy; Million-Dollar Throw
Gary Paulsen Series: Hatchet, The River, Brian's Winter, Brian's Return, Brian's Hunt
Richard Peck Books: A Long Way from Chicago, A Year Down Yonder, A Season of Gifts
C.S. Lewis Series: Chronicles of Narnia
Lois Lowery Series: The Giver, Gathering Blue, Messenger
James Dashner Books: The Maze Runner Series

6) Joke books. These, among many others, will keep you laughing (and will make your parents nuts). Be sure to tell the corniest jokes during dinner.

Laugh-Out-Loud Jokes for Kids
Knock Knock Jokes for Kids
National Geographic Kids: Just Joking
Silly Jokes for Silly Kids
James Patterson Series: I Funny; I Even Funnier; I Totally Funniest
Flora and Ulysses
Ungifted
Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series
101 Ways to Bug Your Friends, Teachers…., Parents…..

And then, you simply must finish the summer with more of what YOU want to read. Please keep us updated on Facebook or via email about the books you are enjoying over the summer! We can’t wait to hear from our students!

Love,

Petal Upper Elementary School Teachers and Staff

Source: Kylene Beers, award-winning educator and author of *When Kids Can’t Read/What Teachers Can Do; Notice and Note: Strategies for Close Reading;Adolescent Literacy: Turning Promise into Practice*; and *Elements of Literature*. 