

GT

Writing

7

GT

Humanities

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Dear GT Students & Parents/Guardians,

In his memoir *On Writing*, bestselling author Stephen King writes, “If you don't have the time to read, you don't have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.”

In order for students to become stronger readers and writers over the course of this year, they must continuously read *strong* writing. From day one, students in my classes are not just learners, but authors. Just as I utilize the authors that I love in order to strengthen my crafts, I hope to push students to use the authors they love to strengthen theirs.

It is with these sentiments that all GT students will be required to be reading and carry an independent book of their choice at all times. While my primary goal is for students to immerse themselves in strong writing, a secondary goal of independent reading is to instill within them a love of reading. When children find engaging literature that they want to read, reading ability increases naturally.

Because of this, students may read fiction, non-fiction, informational texts, and graphic novels for their independent reading. Titles may be signed out from my classroom library, the Shafer library, Bensalem’s public library, or purchased from a bookseller. Students may select any book they choose, as long as a parent or guardian has approved it. No title is off limits, as long as the student is interested and believes they will be able to finish it within a month.

Because many texts within the GT curriculum are on a high school reading level, I supplement my classroom library with titles of all ranges. It is my belief that GT students will only grow by challenging themselves, not only through their reading level, but also through the subject matter that they engage with.

Some titles available to students may contain content and language that is above what their 7th and 8th grade peers are reading. As such, I request that you complete, detach, and return the form below to inform me whether or not you want to be notified by me as to what your child has selected from my classroom library.

Thank you,

Jason Cohen

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

**Please Check ONE:**

* **I DO want to be notified as to what my child has selected from your classroom library.**

Preferred e-mail OR phone number:

* **I DO NOT want to be notified as to what my child has selected from your classroom library.**

Parent Signature