

May 18th, 2011

Dear incoming 6th grade parents and students,

Welcome! In this letter, you'll find information about this year's summer reading book.

Over the summer, each student is required to read ***The View from Saturday***, by **E.L. Konigsburg**:

The View from Saturday
E.L. Konigsburg

Admirable acts, challenging ideas, and grace notes positively festoon this superb tale of four sixth graders and a paraplegic teacher forming a junior high Academic Bowl team that sweeps away the competition. The plot is composed of interwoven puzzles. What prompts Mrs. Olinski to choose Noah, Nadia, Ethan, and Julian for the team over the usual overachievers and honor students in her class? What do they know about her, themselves, and each other that puts them so precisely on the same wavelength and gives them such complementary knowledge and experience? Each has a tale to tell, in the course of which all four witness acts of kindness and respect that teach them to find those feelings in themselves and others. In wry prose filled with vivid imagery, information, and often oblique clues, Konigsburg takes her team through bonding, drills, and a series of contests as suspenseful as any in sports fiction; the children and Mrs. Olinski's public triumph mirror inner epiphanies of rare depth and richness. The large cast, looping plot line, and embedded stories with different narrators require careful sorting, but the effort is eminently worthwhile, and Konigsburg kindly provides answers at the end. (Fiction. 11-13) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

* http://www.amazon.com/View-Saturday-L-Konigsburg/dp/product-description/0689817215/ref=dp_proddesc_0?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books

Even though students will not have to complete any formal assignments over the summer, in the fall they will be expected to participate in class discussions, activities, and quizzes that relate to this text. **All students will need to bring a copy of *The View from Saturday* to school.** In the past, some students have found it helpful to read their summer reading book toward the end of the summer, or to review it at this time, as doing so has kept the narrative fresh in their minds throughout our early work together.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year of reading and writing!

Sincerely,

Mr. Schwartz

Jonathan Schwartz
jschwartz@greenhillsschool.org