

## Summer Reading: Incoming 8th grade

### Part 1: read *Harbor Me*

Incoming 8th graders will read *Harbor Me*, a story about a group of six students with different backgrounds and different experiences who listen, support, and grow in empathy for one another. By hearing each other's stories, they begin to see their own stories through a lens of gratitude.

Students will read this book and then choose one activity to do from the following list:

- **Story Scrapbook:** Create a visual scrapbook highlighting seven key moments from the novel to summarize the story.
- **Gratitude Journaling Project:** Inspired by the students in the ARTT room learning to appreciate their lives, create a personal gratitude journal highlighting people and experiences to be thankful for. You must have a minimum of six entries.

### Part 2: StoryTelling

Students will begin to dabble in their own storytelling skills. Though we will practice this throughout the year, students will begin the process this summer by choosing a favorite memory to share with their classmates. We will be doing this "Moth-style": *sharing a true personal story, out loud, and without any notes.*

Moth-style stories are foundationally the following:

- *True and told out loud, in the first person*
- *Not read or recited* (we will discuss recitation vs storytelling upon returning to school)
- *Always involve stakes and some sort of transformation*
- *Told within a specific time frame*

We will explore and continuously develop all of these concepts and skills at a deeper level throughout the year, but like I always say "the only way through it is to do it" so I'm throwing you in to start on the first day of school!

To begin:

- Select your memory. Your memory should be something that means something to you, should be appropriate to share with your classmates, and not speak disrespectfully of yourself or anyone involved in the memory.
- Your memory should have a moment where you had to make a decision (high stakes or a personal transformation).
- Your memory should not be terribly traumatic or weighted down with a lot of background information.
- Your memory must be a true story.
- It must be told within 2-3 minutes.

Click [here](#) to hear some stories from Moth storytellers to help you get a feel for the structure of telling a story in the Moth-style. My particular favorite is the story titled "Victorious"!

**Please come back to school in August prepared to share your story in our English class.  
Happy summer!**