

June 2022

Dear Seventh Grader,

I am looking forward to your August arrival! In the meantime, please enjoy your summer break AND your summer reading. A summary of your required novel and assignments will follow this short note.

Access for at home summer AR testing will be available until July 30th, so be sure to have your test completed by then. A website link and log-in reminders will be found with the AR test information in the listed assignments descriptions. **ANY AR QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MRS. CUNNINGHAM AT [cunninghamt@stsusanna.org](mailto:cunninghamt@stsusanna.org).** Please be patient as you await a reply - she checks emails often over the summer, but not every day. AR tests can also be taken the first few days of school if you're unable to get it done by July 30th.

Any questions about the book or other assignments should be sent to me at [thomasn@stsusanna.org](mailto:thomasn@stsusanna.org). You'll want to bring your book and have your written assignments ready to turn in by the second day of school. Let me know if you will have any issues with completing the test or assignments by the dates requested.

Very sincerely,  
Miss Thomas

***The Honest Truth***  
***By Dan Gemeinhart***

***Summary: It's never too late for the adventure of a lifetime. In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier. Even if it's the last thing he ever does. The Honest Truth is a rare and extraordinary novel about big questions, small moments, and one incredible journey.***

**COMPLETE THESE ASSIGNMENTS FOR *The Honest Truth*. Be sure to read the entire document so that you don't miss anything.**

***While reading:*** *The Honest Truth is full of friendship and contemplation and, yes, poetry; ultimately, this story asks: what's really important in life? How should we look at it? Consider those questions as you read.*

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**Assignment #1:** Take the AR test for your book.\* You will do this at home as we will be unable to open the computer lab for summer testing. Take the test by July 30th between the hours of 7:30am - 7:30pm, or you may take it the first few days of school in August.

The AR link is <https://global-zone20.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/111335>

Your log-in info is the first initial of your first name followed by the first four letters of your last name. Some students follow that with a "1" if a sibling shares a first name that starts with the same letter. Students who have joined our school family in the last few years also follow with a "sue." Therefore, a username might look like one of the following:

nthom

nthom1

nthomsue

nthom1sue

Passwords are your lunch numbers.

You can also access information on the school website. ANY AR QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MRS. CUNNINGHAM AT [cunninghamt@stsusanna.org](mailto:cunninghamt@stsusanna.org). Remember to be patient as you await a reply - she checks emails often over the summer, but not every day.

**\*NEW STUDENTS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR should contact Mrs. Cunningham prior to taking the AR test since you do not yet have an AR account .**

**Assignment #2:** Please watch the following video on YouTube: *Teaching Kids Haiku with Kwame Alexander and TCM*. It's 10 minutes and 39 seconds long. You are welcome to watch other videos on the art of haiku writing if you wish, but definitely watch this one!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHY0DMLp2SE&t=106s>

I would like you to write THREE haikus for me. TYPE them separately. Center them on the page using LANDSCAPE orientation. Enlarge the font as much as you can so they can be easily read, but keep it to three lines only.

Write a haiku about one character in the book.

Write a haiku about one event, scene, moment, feeling in the book.

Write a haiku about you!

Remember to SHOW and NOT TELL! When school starts, we can all try to guess the character, part of the book, and seventh grader being described.

**\*Presentation COUNTS – please type and print out- no regular pencil or pen\***

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**Assignment #3:** This novel contains big ideas of overcoming adversity, determination, friendship, loyalty, family, personal growth, belonging, love, acceptance, and loss. This is the start of your seventh grade year. Tell me who YOU are! Touch upon the bulleted list below and include other topics that are important to you.

I would LOVE for you to do this in a photo journal with captions in the spirit of *The Honest Truth* main character, Mark. You can use your creativity and tech know-how to present this in single pictures, a collage, or some other clever format.

If the photo journal option does not float your boat, you can write. **Please present this in a well-organized and TYPED paragraph (NO lists) that is at least ONE PAGE with 1.5" spacing and size 12 font. Print in portrait orientation.** Be specific and detailed. You are most welcome to cover any topics you wish beyond those about which I have inquired.

- *What do you consider your strengths and areas of opportunity for improvement in school AND out of school?*
- *How do you learn and study best? What subjects interest you more than others?*
- *What are you looking forward to in school this year? What doesn't excite you about this year?*
- *What are your hobbies and passions, your dreams and ambitions, your likes and dislikes? What do you believe strongly in or feel strongly about?*
- *What causes you fear, anxiety, or worry?*
- *What makes you laugh or brings you joy?*
- *With whom do you share your home or homes? Do you have any pets?*
- *What are some names of classmates you consider to be friends?*
- *What 5 to 7 words best describe you?*
- *What is important for ME to know about YOU?*