

**Dear Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade GT students and parents,**

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing our Gifted and Talented student with a challenging and rewarding curriculum, the Johnston Middle School Language Arts department has created a summer reading program for our GT students. We believe summer reading will both enrich students and create a strong foundation for the reading and writing we will be doing during the 2010-11 school year. Over the summer, students will be required to read two books and complete two projects, which will account for a significant portion of the first nine weeks grade. Both of the books listed are mandatory – everyone will read these books. These titles are available through the Houston Public Library system, Border's (the Meyerland Plaza location has ordered extra copies which will be held at the register for Johnston Middle School students), Amazon.com, or you might find them at Half-Price Books. Double Identity will be provided to each student and **MUST** be returned the first week of school.

**47 by Walter Mosley**

Number 47, a fourteen-year-old slave boy growing up under the watchful eye of a brutal master in 1832, meets the mysterious Tall John, who introduces him to a magical science and also teaches him the meaning of freedom.

**Product** for 47 – Due September 13/14, 2010

Although 47 is a fictional book, the author bases his ideas on real accounts from former slaves.

You may choose from one of the following ideas:

- create a mobile representing the key events from the book,
- Write a radio or TV commercial to sell the book. You do not have to produce the commercial, just write the script, or
- Write a series of journal entries (minimum 8 entries consisting of 50 or more words per entry) for any of the characters that show his/her point of view about the main conflict in the story.

**Assessment** - 100 points

- 1 – Project is thrown together in a haphazard manner and does not satisfy project requirements
- 2 - Project somewhat satisfies project requirements but lack creativity, originality or depth
- 3 – Project fulfills requirements and shows some evidence of creativity, originality or depth
- 4 – Project fulfills requirements and shows significant creativity, originality or depth
- 5 – Project fulfills requirements and shows significant creativity, originality and depth

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teachers look forward to spending the 2010-11 school year with you. Happy reading and have a great, safe summer!

Mrs. Blessington  
House S

Mrs. Aust  
House M

Mrs. Helfman  
House J