

The Village School's Rising 8th Grade Summer Reading

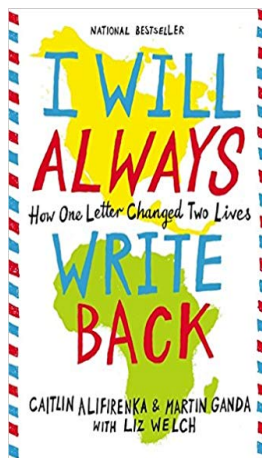


Please complete the following for the first day of school in August.

The Village School

Rising Eighth Grade 2020 Summer Reading Packet

This year's 8th-grade summer read is [*I Will Always Write Back*](#) by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka. **All rising eighth-graders are required to read this novel and complete annotations by the first day of school in August.**



***I Will Always Write Back* by Martin Ganda & Caitlin Alifirenka**

It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters and fifty kids in his class. He was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends --and better people--through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it.

ISBN-13: 978-0-316-24133-5 / Available for purchase [here](#).

Required Annotations for *I Will Always Write Back*:

Annotating requires you to find meaning and reflect on events in a story. Annotations are not just a chapter or page summary retelling what happened, they should show your internal thoughts as you are reading. Your annotations will show where you made connections to other events you have read about, seen, experienced, or expressed how a character or event made you feel. We'll be discussing the book at the start of the new school year. As you read, please take notes on:

- Unfamiliar words
- Figurative language- (similes, metaphors, idioms, personification, etc.)
- Important events- (inciting incident, climax, resolution, character shifts, etc.)
- Questions- (Topics that leave you with additional questions relating to the plot or characters)
- Surprises
- Connections to life (movies, other books, things you know,)
- Parts you love (or not so much)
- Predictions
- Other brilliant thoughts.

Use the bookmark on the next page to guide your annotations, and feel free to write in your book or use sticky notes!

How to Annotate

Notice and comment upon a literary device – simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, irony, symbolism, etc.
What effect does it create for you?

Discuss a part that is confusing to you.

Ask the author a question about a passage.

Jot down any connections to other texts, movies, or historic/current events that you notice. Is the author alluding to something else? If so, discuss this.

Explain the moments of emotional impact. How are you feeling? Is this what the author hoped you would feel? How did the author create this feeling in you?

Why did the author phrase a passage in a particular way? What is the effect of that word choice?

Do you agree or disagree with an idea being presented? Why?

When you encounter a word that you don't know, look it up in the dictionary and write down its definition.

Discuss your changing feelings toward specific characters. What's caused this shift?

Describe what's missing in the text. What do you wish the author had included?

Use your inference skills. Is the author using a passage or relationship to try to tell you something deeper than what is being said directly?

Or write about anything else that comes to mind as you're reading...