

June, 2016

Dear Incoming Sixth Graders,

Welcome to sixth grade! I look forward to seeing all of you this fall for your first year at Dana Hall. For your summer reading, you are required to read *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, by Avi.

Attached to this letter is the assignment you will do for the book. Please type the assignment or write neatly in pencil. If you type, please print the document on paper.

You are also required to read two books from the Dana Hall Summer Reading List, a booklet that was mailed to your parents. You can see the booklist online at the library website at the address below. You will choose the two books you want to read, and then do a short assignment for each. You can see the assignment at the end of this document.

Please bring all of your summer reading work and the book *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* to school on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. In the meantime, have a fun and restful summer, and I'll see you in the fall.

Best wishes,  
Mr. D'Ambrosio

Visit the Dana Hall library website to view the summer reading list online:

<http://library.danahall.org/reading-lists/summer-reading/>

## **Assignments for *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*:**

Write in complete sentences. Write neatly in pencil, or type your work. An adult can help you with a dictionary when you define words from the book.

### An Important Warning and Chapters One - Five

1. In your opinion, what was the strangest or most unpleasant thing that happened to Charlotte as she began her journey on the Seahawk? Why do you say this?
2. Choose either Captain Jaggery or Zachariah. Explain what you've noticed about this character's personality in these chapters. Explain why you describe him this way.
3. Who was on the ship in order to get revenge? Why did this person want revenge?

### Chapters Six - Ten

1. What are your thoughts about the carving Charlotte saw and her way of dealing with it? Do you think she made a good decision to keep it a secret? Why do you feel this way?
2. Write a definition for these words as they were used in Chapters Nine and Ten: **stowaway** and **mutiny**. Explain who the stowaway was, the mutiny that was planned, and how the mutiny turned out. Also, what spoiled the mutiny?

### Chapters Eleven - Fifteen

1. What was Charlotte's decision in the last sentence of Chapter Twelve? Was it a good idea? Do you think it will work out for her? How will the crew treat her? How will she get the skills she needs? How will Captain Jaggery feel about this?
2. Write a definition for these words in Chapter Thirteen and explain how all three words were connected to Charlotte in this chapter: **shrouds**, **gyrations**, and **huzzah**. Don't use the definition of shroud that refers to a cloth or a covering.
3. Explain this sentence from Chapter Fifteen (near the end): "It was my handkerchief."

### Chapters Sixteen - Twenty-One

1. Write a definition for these two words as they were used in Chapter Sixteen and explain how they were connected to Charlotte: **bilge** and **tumultuous**.
2. Describe three things that made Charlotte look guilty.
3. Explain the plan that Charlotte made involving the key. What did she want to accomplish? Explain what each of the people involved in the plan would have to do.
4. Explain this sentence from the end of Chapter Twenty-One, and what happened next: "There were only a few feet between us. With a snarl he lunged at me with both hands."

### Chapter Twenty-Two

1. Write a definition for the word **trellis** as it was used in Chapter 22. How did a trellis help Charlotte?
2. What was Charlotte's plan for her future? Was it a good choice for her? Why do you feel this way? How do you think it will affect her relationship with her family?

## **Assignment for the two books you chose to read this summer:**

1. What words would you use to describe the genre of each book? Was it realistic fiction? Funny? Full of adventure? Fantasy?
2. Write a short summary of each book in complete sentences, in 2 paragraphs or so. Explain what the book was about. Include the names of the main characters and how they were part of the story. Try to end the summary at a cliff hanger near the end of the book! The cliffhanger will make it more fun to share the summary with your classmates in the fall.