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Joanne Buckheit, Principal

Principal

BettyAnn Souffrin, Assistant

Dear Seventh Grade Students,

Welcome to the Seventh Grade! I am looking forward to teaching each and every one of you in September and spending the next year together.

Over this summer, I would like you to start preparing for our upcoming year. For your assignment, you are required to read and annotate one non-fiction book. Any additional books that you read are optional and will be counted as extra credit.

The Non-Fiction book this summer is *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson

Please see the attached assignment for this book. The completed assignment is due in school no later than September 28, 2018.

Have a wonderful summer and happy reading!! See you in September.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rockfeller

MANDATORY SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT INCOMING 7TH GRADE

Throughout our time together next year, we will be mastering the skill of note taking and annotating. I would like you to practice this skill over the summer. While reading this book, stop where necessary to make notes, comments, identify unknown words, wonderings, questions, predictions, etc. This can be done on post-its while reading, directly in the book or on scrap paper. Your annotations will be graded and will count as your first grade in my class!

Students are required to read the non-fiction book *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson. You must annotate the entire book and complete the attached assignment.

Part I-Annotations

Part II-Short Response Questions (On looseleaf or typed)

Answer the following questions in short response form (Use RADD-

Restate the question, Answer the question, Detail #1 from text, Detail #2 from text).

1. Booth came up with a plan to kill the president, using details from the text, outline Booth's reason why and his plan.

2. Describe how Booth used the play as a clock, a form of keeping track of time.

3. Was Powell successful in carrying out his part of the plan? Explain what happened.

4. "The rising sun nudged above the horizon and colored the eastern sky, flooding the Garrett farm with light, which shone on Booth's face. The stage grew dark for him. His body shuddered. John Wilkes Booth was dead" (177). WHY does Swanson use this figurative language to paint a picture of Booth's demise?

Part III- Vocabulary

Find the sentences in the text where the following words are used.

Using context clues determine the meaning of the following words.

Write down the original sentence and the meaning of the word as it is used in the text.

1. Elite p. 47

2. Brute p. 48

3. Aliases p. 50

4. Coagulated p. 68

5. Erroneous p. 104

6. Formidable p. 133

Part IV-Essay Writing

Choose one of the following essay topics and write a full essay answering all parts (be sure to include introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion).

1. **Argumentative Essay**—In your opinion, who among the executed co-conspirators from *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*—John Wilkes Booth, George Atzerodt, David Herold, Lewis Powell, or Mary Surratt—received a punishment far outweighing his/her role in the crime? Write an essay in which you select one co-conspirator and write a compelling argument about why the punishment did not fit the crime. Be sure to address opposing viewpoints in your essay.
2. Many people during this time period had similar feelings as Booth did toward Lincoln, some people even helped him make sure his plan was a success. Using details from the text, decide who you think helped Booth carry out his plan the most and why.