

5/6/08

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe, but summer is just a few weeks away. As in previous years, students will be required to read one book prior to the start of the school year. The eighth grade book is *City of the Beasts* by Isabel Allende. The book may be purchased through Amazon or at most local book stores. Cross-curricular activities surrounding the book are planned for the second week of school.

We encourage you to read the book as well, and have provided a list of questions to promote discussions with your child. The questions are posted on the Bosque web site. There is no required written response over the summer, but students should be prepared to be articulate in their class discussions of the book. Additional assessment demonstrating basic factual knowledge of the book will take place following classroom discussions. It may be best to have students read the book closer to the start of the school year, so that it is fresh in their memory.

For families who would like extra reading opportunities, we have posted a list of recommended titles and authors on the school web page. *City of the Beasts* is also the first in a trilogy by Allende, so you may want to check out the other titles, *Kingdom of the Golden Dragon* and *The Forest of the Pygmies*.

Education is a partnership, and your encouragement, involvement and support are important components of your child's success. Thank you for your help in promoting literacy and a love of reading.

Sincerely,

Bosque School 8th Grade Teachers