



8th Grade Summer Assignment 2018

Welcome to 8th grade! Did you know that many students' RI scores actually drop between June and September? There's an easy way to avoid "summer reading loss," and it's great preparation for eighth grade: **Read as much as possible this summer!** Read whatever books you'd like and record them on the attached form. A list of suggested readings is posted on the school website (www.alicedeal.org), and your English teachers or Ms. Redekopp would be happy to make personalized recommendations.

In addition to their own personal reading, over the summer, **all eighth graders are required to read *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women***, edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman. After reading, **students will complete two activities, both due on Friday, August 24, 2018.**

This I Believe is a book of short essays based on the popular NPR radio series of the same name, in which a diverse group of people describe beliefs that guide them. The book will help students think about what *they* truly believe as they prepare for their final year at Deal and get ready for high school.

To help students make sense of this book, they have two activities to complete. They will need to read a total of six of the *This I Believe* essays for the two activities, but we encourage them to read the whole book.

Activity #1: Illustrations

Choose **five** of the *This I Believe* essays that you found particularly interesting. For each, create an illustration (hand-drawn or on computer), on 8.5" x 11" paper, with a quotation from the essay at the bottom or as part of the illustration. Include your name and the name of the essay's author. **This activity will be a formative grade due on Friday, August 24, 2018.**

Activity #2: Letter

Choose a *This I Believe* essay that describes a belief that you either do or do not share. Write a letter to your 8th grade ELA teacher in which you (1) explain the author's belief and (2) explain why you do or do not agree with it. This is a personal letter, not a formal essay, but you should still write clearly and organize your ideas into at least two robust paragraphs. **This activity will be a formative grade due on Friday, August 24, 2018.**

