Greetings New 7th-Grade Students,

Happy Summer! I hope that this quick note finds you enjoying these long days of summer with some time reading. I am enjoying a little more free time to spend with Tank (my cute little dog who you will meet soon) and my family; as well as listening to books! I recently finished *The Young Carthaginian* by G. A. Henty. This year, you will learn about Hannibal during History class. If you are amazed at the military genius of Hannibal, you might enjoy this historical fiction novel which details his strategies and successes with a number of action packed adventures thrown in!

Your required summer reading is C.S. Lewis's *The Magician's Nephew*. If you've been at The Oaks for a few years, you have already read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and you are familiar with the land of Narnia. In *The Magician's Nephew*, you will learn how Narnia came into existence, which will make it a good companion to your study of ancient history and the various other creation accounts that are presented both in the Bible and in ancient mythology. It's a good time to practice active reading, so keep a pencil in hand as you read and note interesting descriptions or quotes. I would also encourage you to write a few words of summary at the end of each chapter to help you recollect the plot when you discuss it in the fall.

If you have not read the Narnia series, I would encourage you to read some or all of the books this summer (this is not required). These books are very enjoyable and would make great summer reading at a beach or on a road trip or even a restful Sunday afternoon! Perhaps you may wish to re-read them if you have already experienced them once!

While you are reading, I will also be making it through my book list for the summer! Among other titles, I am looking forward to reading Tolkien's *Unfinished Tales from Numenor and Middle Earth* as well as Shakespeare's *Henry V* and *In the First Circle* by Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn. I will be thinking of you as I read, and looking forward to finding out more of the "backstory" for *Lord of the Rings* which you will begin during our second semester. In the meantime, I pray that you will find joy in loving and serving your families over the next few months, and I'll look forward to seeing you in September, if not before!

Blessings to you all,

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