Greetings Incoming 8th-Graders!

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 (whom you all know well by now) and my family as well as listening to books! I recently read *The Young Carthaginian* by G. A. Henty. If you were amazed at the military genius of Hannibal during History class, you would enjoy this historical fiction novel which details his strategies and successes with a number of action packed adventures thrown in!

Your required summer reading—as we discussed at the end of the year—is JRR Tolkien's *The Two Towers* (you will also read *The Return of the King* later in the year). It's a good time to practice active reading, so keep a pencil in hand as you read and note interesting descriptions or quotes. Since we have practiced compiling story maps in our Literature Log, I am asking you to complete a story map for *The Two Towers* as you read. You can use your story map of *The Fellowship of the Ring* as a guide. You need not re-write descriptions for characters who were already introduced in the first book of the trilogy, but you will add to your list with some of the new characters who are introduced in this installment. (See the attached story map template for a list of the characters that you should include.) Writing the story map is your chance to clarify and solidify what you know about the book, so be sure that the information in your story map comes from your own head, **not** from what others may have written about the characters or plot on the internet or elsewhere.

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 *Live Like a Narnian* by Joe Rigney 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*. 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,

Mrs. Bursese
lorraine.bursese@theoakscca.org

Story Map for <u>The Two Towers</u>

Author last name, Author first name. <u>Title</u>. Other contributors, Publisher, Date of Publication. (NOTE THE PUNCTUATION USED BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT ELEMENTS HERE.)

Setting	Central Conflict
Characters ● Grima Wormtongue ● Shelob ● Eomer ● Theoden ● Eowyn ● Faramir ● Fangorn	Events (Chapter Summaries)
<u>Great Ideas (Themes)</u> -Look for these themes as you read, underline quotes that demonstrate the themes. Then, write the theme in the margin. ● Fellowship (the value of fellowship) / Loyalty ● Duty ● Providence ● Courage ● Power (the corrupting nature of power)	

This story map can continue front and back-side of each page, if needed, for more than one page.