Summer 2025

Dear 8th Graders,

I do hope this letter finds you with you shoes kicked off, enjoying the sunshine. Summer is such a refreshing time — a time full of adventure. Here are a few things you should do this summer:

1) Find a new insect.
2) Taste something new.
3) Try sleeping with one sock on and one sock off.
4) Read a book aloud to a child, I suggest *There's a Wocket in my Pocket* by Dr. Seuss.
5) Learn a new three syllable word.
6) Listen to silence, if you can find it.
7) Play a game that is just a bit too hard for you.

Then, in your spare moments, you get to **read** *The Lord of the Rings,* specifically *The Two Towers.* If you have forgotten all the things from *The Fellowship of the Ring*, I suggest you re-read that as well. I expect you to be able to engaged with the events and characters from both books in class.

Please do not rush through *The Two Towers*. Let some of these characters become your friends, and learn to beware of others.

- You should have a pencil in your hand marking worthy passages to share in class.
- You should select something to **track** through the novel. For example, you might track a pattern in the use of color or every time the word hope appears or mark every time wise counsel is given.
- I also would appreciate a compelling case for which two towers are *the* two towers.

Once you have wandered through this novel, you need to pick a valuable scene to **illustrate**. This is not an art project as much as a wise selection and narrative detail project. Choose carefully. You will present your illustration to the class with a defense of your choices in the middle of the first week.

To refresh and prepare yourself well reading the entire Chronicles of Narnia would be a blessing, If I had to pick one, I would suggest: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader. The Rule of Saint Benedict* or *Macbeth,* I commend to pre-read on your own. Do you want a good story? Then try *The White Company* by Sir. Arthur Conan Doyle. But any of his Sherlock Holmes are also delightful. Do you want a challenge? Try *The Black Arrow* by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is also I fitting time to re-read old favorites: *The Door in the Wall, The Phantom Tollbooth,* or *Anne of Green Gables.*

Rest well! Refresh yourself! And I will see you in the future where I it will be my honor to welcome you to Traditio guiding you through Middle Earth and the Middle Ages.

Grace and Peace,
Miss Hartke