

SUMMER 2013 READING & WRITING PROGRAM

The Smart Cookie Learning Summer Reading and Writing program is offered on a week-by-week basis for eight weeks over the summer (June 24 to August 16, with no sessions scheduled the week of July 1.) The book list below is a mix of fiction and non-fiction.

These week-long, 4-session classes (7.5 hours of total class time) are broken down the following way: Day 1 (Monday) is devoted to a 1.5 hr roundtable, in-depth book club discussion designed to develop students' critical thinking and analytical skills. Days 2, 3 and 4 (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) we meet for 2-hour sessions for the writing boot camp, in which students are guided, step-by-step through the essay writing process. Day 2 is dedicated to developing an outline and introduction. Day 3 is focused on creating a solid rough draft with well-developed body paragraphs and strong supporting evidence. Day 4 is centered on editing and revising the final draft. By the end of the week, each student will have developed a well-crafted, 3-5 page final essay.

We believe students can get the maximum benefit from enrolling in 2-3 weeks' worth of sessions, as each week is dedicated to a slightly different style of writing and literature. For example, one week will focus on historical analysis, as the kids respond to and learn about Japanese Internment during World War II while reading *Farewell to Manzanar*. The unit based on *the Alchemist* will focus on literary analysis, while the unit on *Of Beetles and Angels* will be personal reflection. The *Chew on This* unit will encourage students to develop a voice, as they write a fact-based opinion piece. Students can sign up on a week-by-week basis.

Book List

Book One: *Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know about Fast Food* by Eric Schlosser and Charles Wilson 270 pgs.

Written by Eric Schlosser, the bestselling and groundbreaking author of *Fast Food Nation*, and his journalist coauthor, Charles Wilson, *Chew on This* goes behind the scenes to slaughterhouses, factories, and restaurant chains to present some eye-opening -- and occasionally stomach-churning -- facts about fast food and its impact on health, economy, community, and more. -Barnes and Noble Editors

Book Two: *Of Beetles and Angels* by Mawi Asgedom 192 pgs.

Asgedom, an Ethiopian refugee at the age of four, came to America, worked hard, and eventually earned a full scholarship to Harvard, where in 1999 he delivered the commencement address. His simple lyrical narrative, coming-of-age story is both darkened and enriched by the stories he hears about his parents' lives back home and by the pieces he remembers. -Hazel Rochman, Booklist

Book Three: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho 176 pgs.

This inspirational fable by Brazilian author Coelho is a charming tale about Santiago, a shepherd boy, who dreams of seeing the world. Santiago learns many lessons during his adventures, as he journeys from Spain to Morocco in search of worldly success, and eventually to Egypt, where a fateful encounter with an alchemist brings him at last to self-understanding and spiritual enlightenment. -Publishers Weekly

Book Four: *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston, 208 pgs.

Jeanne Wakatsuki was seven years old in 1942 when her family was uprooted from their home and sent to live at the Manzanar internment camp--with 10,000 other Japanese Americans....*Farewell To Manzanar* is the true story of one spirited Japanese American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention . . . and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the United States. --From the Publisher