

Dear Seniors,

I'm going to take you back a few years. Remember third or fourth grade? Remember the dreaded AR points? Maybe you were the one who struggled to actually acquire the necessary ten points per nine weeks? Or maybe you were the overachiever who *had* to make the 100-point club and get the glorious golden plastic trophy at Awards Day?

Whether you were the struggler, the overachiever, or somewhere in the middle, there *has* to be a favorite book that you remember from those years. Maybe it was the classroom read of *Charlotte's Web* or the weekend escape to *Little House on the Prairie* or *The Magic Treehouse*. Regardless, **the following is your summer reading assignment:**

1. Recapture that memory from your childhood and find that all-time beloved book you just couldn't put down.
2. Reread it.
3. Take notes, highlight, or tag a Post-it note on the page(s) which make you now realize why it has become forever engrained in your memory.
4. Jot down a few revealing or interesting quotes from the book that you now understand made it all the more meaningful.

Whatever your choice of literature, your favorite childhood book probably stirs up a strong sense of nostalgia when you think of it now. Rereading a classic book from your childhood will put a smile on your face. It will be an interesting experience to look back and remember what you thought about the book back then... and to compare it to what you think about it now. (Hint: this *should* sound like an essay topic to you.)

Here's a sampling of what you might have read and loved *way back then*:

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Stuart Little by E.B. White
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
The Secret Garden by Francis Hodgson Burnett
Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Old Yeller by Fred Gipson
A Series of Unfortunate Events series by Lemony Snickett
Nancy Drew series by Caroline Keene
The Hardy Boys
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by
Inkheart by Cornelia Funke
The Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne
Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald