

## Directions for Summer Reading

You will write a letter to your Language Arts Teacher detailing your thoughts on the books listed below. I am very much interested in hearing from you and want you to know I am most interested in your personal response to the book. In your letter include enough detail so I know you read carefully, but remember this is not a summary of the plot. I want to know what you think, not on a simple, factual level, what the book is about.

7th graders are reading *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis.

8th graders are reading *Breaking Through* by Francisco Jimenez.

### Pointers

Be sure to say enough. Letters should be about one and a half pages to two pages hand written, or two pages typed. If handwritten, please use blue or black pen.

Here are some suggestions for what you can include in your letter:

Offer your opinion on what the speaker (narrator) or another character says or does or how he/she is described.

Ask a question base on what you wonder about. That is, what do you think the author is trying to say here? Or why does a character do or say something? Then write a response to this question. Your question should be open -ended, one that can't be answered yes or no, one that can be answered in many ways, depending on your opinion of what the author is trying to say.

What you like about the writing itself... how you notice specific language the author uses and how it really grabs you, makes you feel, think. Try to explain why you like the writing...is it the word choice? Vivid descriptions? Vivid characters described in great detail? Poetic devices, such as a simile and metaphor or details that appeal to our sense of sight, smell, hearing, touch or taste?

Describe how you felt (saddened, hopeful, relieved, angry, etc.) while reading, they try to explain why you may have felt the way you did.

**DON'T SUMMARIZE!**