



May, 2010

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents:

I am writing to give your Derryfield student his or her summer reading assignment. Eighth graders should read at least one of the autobiographies from the list below, before the first day of class.

I am asking students to read an autobiography this summer because the central writing project of eighth grade English is the year-long autobiography. Beginning the school year with the experience of reading a published autobiography, eighth graders will learn at least one approach to autobiographical writing. The beginning of the year will use the summer reading to help begin the process of learning how they may approach writing their own autobiography. Most of all, though, I want to promote reading as an enjoyable and enriching experience. I hope students will enjoy this assignment while sharpening their critical reading skills. Students should choose from the following:

*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Ishmael Beah

*Bat Boy*, Matthew McGough

*Educating Esme*, Esme Codell

*Lost on a Mountain in Maine*, Donn Fendler

*Go for the Goal*, Mia Hamm

*Last Man Down*, Richard Picciotto

*No End in Sight*, Rachel Scdoris

*Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson & Oliver Renn

You may find these autobiographies at your local library. You may also stop by the Derryfield library over the summer to check out one of these autobiographies if you prefer. You may order online at [www.VarsityBooks.com](http://www.VarsityBooks.com), the home of Derryfield's online bookstore. You may find a description of each book by going to the Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or Varsity Book websites or just Google the book to obtain more information. As classes will be discussing autobiographies and the year-long project at the beginning of the year, please arrange to have your child's chosen autobiography at school for the first two weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my wishes for an enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Paul Whitmore, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teacher