

## **Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment**

1. Read the book *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson. You may order the book from a bookseller or check the book out of the library.

2. As you read, take informal notes that address the following:

- Who are the main characters?
- What are the main conflicts, or problems, that the characters face?
- What are the most significant events that happen?
- What is the book's setting (time and place)?
- What takes place in the book's climax?
- How does the author create suspense for the reader?
- What is the book's theme—that is, what is it trying to teach us about life?
- Write down any questions about the book that you may have

Be sure to bring your notes and questions to class during the first week of school. Also bring a copy of the book. These will be used for class discussion and to help you with an in-class assessment.

3. When you come back to school in August, you will be given a test on the book. The test will count as your first major grade in English class, so be sure to read the book carefully. If you read the book earlier in the summer, be sure to review it before the first day so that you can do well on the test.

4. In addition to *Old Yeller*, read as many books as possible. As Sir Richard Steele said, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."