



# HILL TOP

Preparatory School

Summer 2017

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

Summer is here and with that, comes beaches, sun, and a good summer book. This summer, the students heading into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be assigned *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson. This book was chosen because the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be studying early American history in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and *Forge's* setting is Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78.

On the next page, you will find the reading guide that should be given to your child. It gives a very brief description of the book and provides instructions on the writing assignment that corresponds to the book. We ask that each student answer all the questions from the reading guide. Each question's response should be a paragraph long. The answers to the questions are due on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mcohen@hilltopprep.org](mailto:mcohen@hilltopprep.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Mike Cohen  
Middle School Division Head

*Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson

“In this [book] we learn what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in the midst of the chaos of the American Revolution.

In the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter, Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of being discovered as an escaped slave passing for free. Isabel is also at Valley Forge—against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom.”

From <http://madwomanintheforest.com/historical-forge/>

### **Student Assignment**

*Write a paragraph for each of the four questions asked from this book. Make sure you use topic sentences for each paragraph.*

1. Using four examples from the book, explain how Curzon gains respect from those around him.
2. Using three examples throughout the book, show how Curzon experiences racism. Explain how he still shows respect for himself despite this racism.
3. What emotions did this book bring about? Give three emotions, using at least three examples from the book.
4. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not? Include at least three examples from the book that help explain your answer.