

The Masters School  
**Middle School Summer Reading Program**  
**Eighth Grade Humanities**

**Reading Component**

Eighth Grade English considers American identity as represented in literature. Accordingly, the summer reading begins this exploration with the following required texts:

- *Seabiscuit*, by Laura Hillenbrand
- *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright (Part I only)

In addition, while certainly not required, *The Right Stuff*, by Tom Wolfe, might be worth a read as well. Each of these works offers insights into an essential question driving the eighth grade curriculum: what is the American identity?

**Writing Component**

To help us begin our conversation about American identity, please write a one-page (word processed) response to either of the required books. Do not merely summarize the plot. Instead, discuss your own thoughts and reactions to one of the pieces, perhaps referring briefly to a specific scene or image. Please do not reference the Internet or any study guide when writing your paper. Bring your paper to class the first day of school; we look forward to seeing you in the fall!