



Dear BES and MES Parents,

Winter is the perfect time to curl up with a good book. This holiday season we invite you to join us in kicking off our **Winter Reading Challenge** for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. The **2016 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature**, Gene Luen Young has issued the **Reading Without Walls Challenge** to all students. The aim of the challenge is to encourage children to explore books with different voices, genres, and formats.

With the goal of expanding students reading horizons, Gene Luen Young has three reading guidelines:

1. Explore a book in which the character does not look or live like you.
2. Read a book about a topic you don't know much about.
3. Read a book in a genre you don't ordinarily read.

The challenge is outlined greater detail on the school's website or [click here](#). After the students finish their reading they are asked to fill out a [Google Form](#) that asks a few simple questions about the book they read. As students participate and accept the challenge our [virtual wall](#) will begin to be dismantled brick by brick as the number of books read by our district K-5 community grows.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and hope that you will encourage your child to read out of their comfort zone and **join all of the BES and MES students on the road to becoming well-read individuals**. If you have any questions, please email us at dbenedict@ctreg14.org or jmartellino@ctreg14.org.

Best Wishes,
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