Grade 8 Accelerated: Thematic Topics: Identity, Loss of Innocence, Conformity, Perseverance:

You are required to read **The Outsiders** (S.E. Hinton), "Nothing Gold Can Stay" (Robert Frost), and ONE nonfiction article as your summer reading requirement. Directions for the assignments and embedded links to organizers are provided below. In September, you and your class will examine specific language, literary techniques and devices, and quotations related to the thematic topics. You are expected to be familiar with the details of all the texts on **the first day of instruction** and to **come prepared with your Double-Entry Journal** and annotations.

Consider the following essential questions while you read The Outsiders and your chosen nonfiction article:

- What does it mean to be an insider or an outsider?
- How does conflict lead to change?
- What factors shape our values and beliefs (identity)?
- What connections or comparisons can you make between and among the texts--novel, article, and poem?

I. **Non-Fiction Articles** : Using the essential questions above to focus your inquiry, read and annotate **ONE** of the following articles:

  "Herd Behavior" by Common Lit. staff
  “Why Do People Follow the Crowd?” by ABC News
  "How Jackie Robinson Changed Baseball" by Jessica Mc Birny
  "Hello My Name Is___" By Jason Kim
  “After Losing His Father to Gun Violence at Age 3, He Pursues Opera Dream” by By Petula Dvorak

* Links of articles are also provided on the school and District Websites.
II. **Poem: “Nothing Gold Can Stay” (Robert Frost).** Read and annotate the poem. Be sure to note the techniques and literary devices Frost uses to emphasize the loss of innocence.

III. **Novel: The Outsiders (S.E. Hinton):** While reading the novel, you should note any quotations that are significant and/or meaningful to share during a discussion on the Double-Entry Journal; be sure to record the page number as well. You should explain each quotation, noting the impact of the author’s word choices and the quote’s connection to the thematic topics of Identity, Loss of Innocence, Conformity, and Perseverance. **Use the essential questions provided to frame your inquiry and quotation selection.** Do NOT simply paraphrase your responses.

***Please note:** Your work on the quotation organizer should reflect your original thoughts and analysis of the text. Therefore, you should complete the readings and quotation organizer independently, without the assistance of others.