

## Summer Reading for Incoming 8th Graders

**Step 1:** Collect a copy of Diana Wynne Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle*. You can purchase your own or borrow a copy from a library.

**Step 2:** Read (and hopefully enjoy) the novel.

**Step 3:** Expect an in-class essay during the first week of school on *Howl's Moving Castle*. You will be asked to write about the novel's characters - focus on the protagonist and the lessons or ideas the other characters teach them. You will be writing about the book from memory, so you are encouraged to take notes, write a summary, act out the book, talk to your friends about it, review it at the end of the summer; do whatever will help you remember the story and its details. *As a word of caution*, there is a wonderful film by Studio Ghibli that is very loosely based on Jones' novel and has the same title, but they are radically different in plot, tone, and themes. Don't believe that watching the film will prepare you to discuss the book.

