

Dear Future Students from the Class of 2028:

Welcome to Grade 7 ELA! I hope that you had a positive transition into the middle school this past year as a sixth grader, and hope you are excited for what is to come in your next chapter as a seventh grader.

Summer vacation is a time to rest, rejuvenate and have some fun with friends and family. It is important to make the most of the time you have in these short summer months. With this in mind, the grade 7 ELA summer activities are designed to be engaging, manageable, and a valuable use of your time. **You will have two activities to complete this summer - one reading activity and one writing activity.**

**In this packet, you will find the following information:**

1. Reading Activity (Blog) Directions
2. Writing Activity (Letter) Directions
3. Rubric/criteria for success for both activities
4. Alternative to Blog information

Completing these activities thoughtfully and completely will allow your grade 7 experience to start off on a high note! **I encourage you to complete these activities before the summer ends. For your planning purposes, your summer activities are due by Friday September 10th.** If you have questions over the summer, please do not hesitate to contact either me through e-mail, and I will get back to you as soon as possible!

Happy reading!

Warmly,

Mrs. Duggan

[cduggan@cohassetk12.org](mailto:cduggan@cohassetk12.org)

**Grade 7 Summer Reading Goals:**

- ❑ Spark a love for reading, and to build a community of motivated and independent readers by empowering students to immerse themselves in a summer reading book (s) of their choice based on each individual's unique interests.
- ❑ Experience the social component of reading by engaging in online discussion(s) through posting on our grade 7 blog.
- ❑ Inspire students to arrive in September eager to continue reading and talking about books!

**Activity #1 - Read & Blog****1. Step 1: Choose a Book**

Find a book to read that is interesting to you. *The book should be one that you have not read before, and it should be appropriately challenging (not too easy, but not too hard).*

**2. Step 2: Before Reading Blog Post**

**Before** starting your book, visit the grade 7 blog: [www.cmssumerblog.weebly.com](http://www.cmssumerblog.weebly.com), and respond to the questions under "Post #1 - Before Reading." To write your response, click "comments," and leave a reply in the text box. Note: You do not have to provide an email address or a website.

**3. Step 3: Read and enjoy your book!****Tips:**

- *Find a time or a place that makes reading your book really enjoyable for you.*
- *If you listen to the audiobook, be sure to follow along with the book in front of you.*
- *You may want to form a book club by asking a family member or a friend to read and discuss the book with you!*
- **Extra Credit Alert: Complete this [Summer Reading Planner](#). Submit this to your teacher in the fall for extra credit.**

**4. Step 4: After Reading Blog Post**

**After** you finished reading your book, visit the grade 7 blog: [www.cmssummerblog.weebly.com](http://www.cmssummerblog.weebly.com), and respond to the questions under "Post #2 - After Reading." A fully developed response will be 7-10 sentences in length.

**\*\*Note for Students Taking Accelerated ELA Next Year\*\***

You are required to read TWO books this summer.

Follow the directions (above) for BOTH summer reading books.

You are required to write blog posts before, and after, reading both books.

This means you will write four (4) blog posts in total.

## Activity #2 - Write a Letter to Your Teacher!

### The goals of the Grade 7 summer writing activity are...

- ❑ To get to know a little bit about each individual student - his/her interests, goals, hopes, etc. - as early as possible!
- ❑ To give each student the opportunity to share his/her learning preferences, and/or anything else, that would be helpful for us to know in trying to create a positive experience in ELA!

### Letter to your Teacher - Directions

1. **YOUR GOAL:** Help your teacher get to know who you are as an individual through a letter of introduction!
2. **AUDIENCE:** The **ONLY** person who will read your letter is your grade 7 ELA teacher.
3. **FORMAT:** You will write a letter using the [friendly letter format](#). Your letter can be typed and printed, or neatly handwritten. *Please do not share your letter electronically.*
4. **CONTENT:** To help me to get an idea of who you are, both in and out of school, your letter should include your responses to the following:
  - **Introduce Yourself!** - What makes you, *you*? Tell me about your interests, family, favorite activities, fun or memorable experiences from this summer, or share some fun facts about yourself.
  - **Previous Experiences** - Describe something about a previous English class that you **liked or enjoyed**. Explain what you liked about the experience.
  - **Your Feelings About Reading & Writing** - How do you feel about reading and writing? What type of books do you most enjoy? Why? What style of writing do you most enjoy? Why? If reading or writing has not been enjoyable to you yet, describe why.
  - **Learning Preferences** - How do you think you learn best? *Think about the types of learning experiences that have been most beneficial to you.*
  - **A Goal and a Hope for English** - What is a goal you would like to accomplish in English this year? What is an area of reading or writing that you would like to improve upon? What do you hope English will be like this year?
5. **SUBMITTING YOUR LETTER:** Bring your letter to school when we return in the fall.
6. **OPTIONAL:**
  - Personalize your letter with stickers or decorations.
  - Include a picture from an experience you had this summer
  - You can choose to go old school and MAIL your letter! Send your letter to:  
*Cohasset Middle High School attn: Mrs. Duggan  
143 Pond Street  
Cohasset, MA 02025*

To read **my** letter to you, please click the link below!

[Mrs. Duggan](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Rubric****0-1 Does Not Meet Expectations    2 = Partially Meeting    3 = Meets or Exceeds**

Activity	Criteria for Success			
<p><b>Blog Post # 1 - Before Reading</b></p> <p><a href="#">Blog # 1 Student Sample</a></p>	<p>-Provides a thoughtful overview to explain what made you choose the book</p> <p>-Develops ideas using at least 5 complete sentences.</p> <p>-Follows capitalization, punctuation and spelling rules.</p> <p>-Accelerated Students Only: Provides a before reading post for both books</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<p><b>Blog Post #2</b></p> <p><b>Discuss an element of your summer reading book.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Blog # 2 Student Sample</a></p>	<p>-Demonstrates that you read the book fully.</p> <p>-Includes relevant comments based on the suggested prompts; does not simply summarize the plot</p> <p>-Includes specific examples from the book to articulate your thoughts/opinions; <b>no spoilers!</b></p> <p>-Fully developed using at least 7 complete sentences.</p> <p>-Follow capitalization, punctuation and spelling rules.</p> <p>-Accelerated Students Only: Provides an after reading post for both books</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<p><b>Letter to Your Teacher</b></p> <p><i>Sample Letter From:</i> <a href="#">Mrs. Duggan</a></p>	<p>-Fully addresses each question thoughtfully as outlined in the instructions</p> <p>-Follows capitalization, punctuation and spelling rules</p> <p>-Demonstrates your best effort</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<p><b>Timeliness</b></p>	<p>-Both Blog assignments and letter meets the deadline (will be announced during the first week of classes when we return in September)</p>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_/10

### Alternative to the Blog

If you would prefer that your child not participate in the blog activity, please review the following information, and sign and return this form to your child's grade 6 English teacher before the end of the school year. Please note that your child will not lose any points or credit for not using the blog.

**Alternative Blog Directions:** Instead of responding to the prompts on the blog, please write your responses in a Google Doc or on a separate piece of paper. Bring your Doc or handwritten response to school within the first week of school to get credit for your work. As a reminder, prompts are below:

- **Response #1 - Before Reading:** *Which book did you choose? What is the title and genre? Who is the author? Describe the reasons why you selected that book. What was it about the book that interested you?*
- **Response #2 - After Reading:** Choose a part of the book - the characters, the conflict(s), the theme(s) or the book as a whole - to discuss in a well developed blog post.
  - What word would you use to describe this part of the book, and why?
  - How did this part of the book make you feel? What was your reaction(s) to this part of the book?
  - What did this part of the book make you think of?
    - What connections can you make to this part of the book?
  - What life lesson might someone learn through this element of the book?
  - How might you rate , or grade, this part of the book? Why? Be specific.

Keep the top half for your reference!

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*Detach the bottom of this page and return to your English teacher!*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have reviewed and understand the alternative to the blog directions (above).
- My child will be completing his/her summer reading activity on a Google Doc or separate page **instead** of the blog.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_