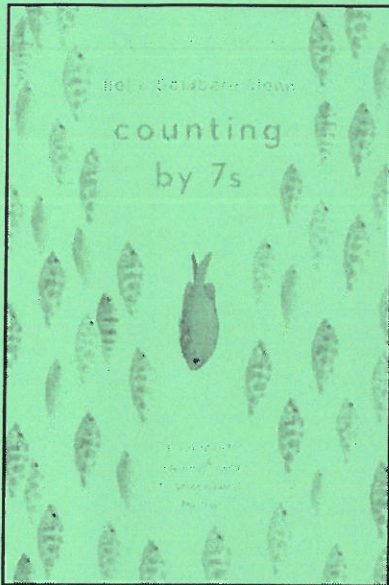


Summer reading and assignments for our incoming 6th graders...



Counting by 7s
by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life... until now.

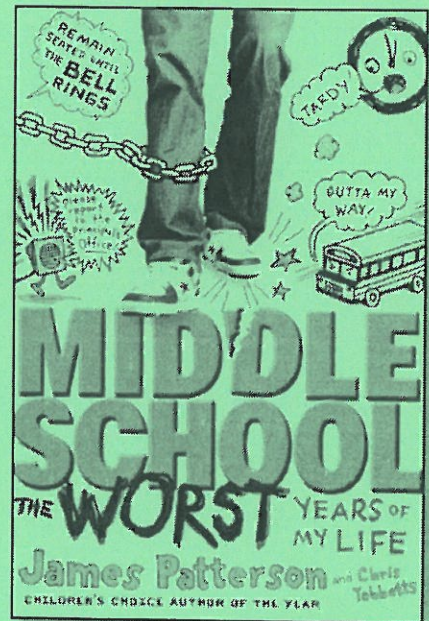
Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This odd but endearing girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.

Assignment: Choose any character from the book and explain how he or she has changed throughout the story. In your response, please provide at least three details (with page numbers) from the book that support your ideas. Your response should be no more than two pages typed, double-spaced.

Rafe Khatchadorian has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix. Luckily, he's got an ace plan for the best year ever, if only he can pull it off: With his best friend Leonardo the Silent awarding him points, Rafe tries to break every rule in his school's oppressive Code of Conduct. Chewing gum in class: 5,000 points! Running in the hallway: 10,000 points! Pulling the fire alarm: 50,000 points! But when Rafe's game starts to catch up with him, he'll have to decide if winning is all that matters, or if he's finally ready to face the rules, bullies, and truths he's been avoiding.

Assignment: Using poster board, generate a list of Rafe's Top Ten (or so) Biggest Accomplishments from 6th grade. Illustrate each item, using irony and humor the way Rafe tries to do. You are certainly encouraged to put your own spin on this!

Middle School: the Worst Years
of my Life
by James Patterson



Please bring both assignments to class during the first week of school.
Looking forward to seeing you all!