

**Required Summer Reading**

***Counting by 7’s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan**

All students entering 7th grade at Grady Middle School are required to read two novels during the summer: one required, and one choice book on Myon.com. The required novel will be used as a reference text as well as used to teach new skills. Therefore, each student must purchase the book from any major book store or download it to an eReader. There will be a comprehensive assessment given over the novel during the first week of school.

This same required novel will be used by all grade levels during advisory.

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| From Goodreads:  In the tradition of Out of My Mind, Wonder,and Mockingbird, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.   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 extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily 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. |

**Required Reading** – *Counting by 7’s by Holly Goldberg Sloan*

**ELA Assignment Packet Includes the Following:**

* Double-Entry directions, example, and template
* Book review template for a fiction or nonfiction book of your choice, read on MyOn.com
* Mad Lib activity

**Organizing Your Summer Reading Assignment**

Students should make the conscious effort to put their best work forward. Please adhere to the following:

* Errors in writing conventions such as spelling, capitalization and punctuation should not be present.
* All answers and responses should be in complete sentences with text support.
* Responses and reflections may be typed or handwritten. You are invited to use the format in this packet, but are not required to do so.

Double Entry Journals

Students will complete a double-entry journal with seven quotes and seven reflections over the course of the whole book, *Counting by 7’s*.

Entry 1: Chapters 1-9. Consider why Willow feels so connected to the number 7.

Entry 2: Chapters 10-20. Consider the importance of Willow’s new friendship.

Entry 3: Chapters 21-30. Consider how Willow and Pattie are similar.

Entry 4: Chapters 31-40. Consider what motivates Quang-ha to act the way he does.

Entry 5: Chapters 41-50. Consider how Willow influences the Nguyens.

Entries 6 and 7: Chapters 51-61. Consider how this story is about losing and finding things.

Directions: Double-Entry Journals (also known as dialectical journals) are a special type of reading log in which the pages are divided into two columns. In the left column, students write quotes from the story they are reading, and in the right column they reflect on each quote. They may relate a quote to their own lives, react to it, write a question, or make some other connection.

Example: The following are excerpts from a 5th grade student’s double-entry journal about *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Lewis, 1950).

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| Quotes | Reflections |
| Chapter 1  I tell you this is the sort of house where no one is going to mind what we do.  Chapter 5  “How do you know?” he asked, “that your sister’s story is not true?”  Chapter 15  Still they could see the shape of the great lion lying dead in his bonds.  They’re nibbling at the cords. | I remember the time that I went to Beaumont, Texas to stay with my aunt. My aunt’s house was very large. She had a piano and she let us play it. She told us what we could do whatever we wanted to do.  It reminds me of when I was little and I had an imaginary place. I would go there in my mind. I made up all kinds of make-believe stories about myself in this imaginary place. One time I told my big brother about my imaginary place. He laughed at me and told me I was silly. But it didn’t bother me because nobody can stop me from thinking what I want.  When Aslan died I thought about when my Uncle Carl died. This reminds me of the story where the lion lets the mouse go and the mouse helps the lion. |

**Choice Novel: Book Review Template**

**Book Review Template for Middle School**

**Summary**: Write a summary of a fiction or nonfiction book of your choice. You are required to read a book on [www.MyOn.com](http://www.MyOn.com). Try to choose a novel that is near or above your lexile level. Your username is your iStation log in, and the password is “myOn”.

First Paragraph- Write about the setting (where the story takes place, usually the time and place). Introduce the main character or characters in the story. For example, what are the characters’ names? Qualities? What motivates them? Discuss what conflict or problem the main character faces in the story. If you’re still having trouble starting, you can answer the questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

Second Paragraph- Summarize what happens up until the high point (climax) of the story. Don’t give away the ending; this should be just enough to tease the reader into wanting to get this book. Use some of these transition words to help write the review:

First

Second

Third

Last

Also

Between

Finally

After that

Because

Next

Then

For example

Another

As a result

Later

During

**Opinion**- Write a paragraph giving your opinion on the book. Use these guidelines:

Write about why you like or dislike the book. Give details. For example, was the book confusing? Was it too easy to read, or was it too hard? Was it predictable/believable? Did you like the ending? What was your favorite part? What connections did you make with your life or with other books? Talk about the author’s style of writing and give examples from the book. Minimum five sentences.

**Recommendation**- Explain whether you would recommend this book to students, or not. Rate the book from 1-5 stars, five being the best, and give examples from the text why you gave it the rating you did. Examples should include a quote or quotes from the book, or a summary of the part of the book that you liked or did not like.

7th Grade Summer Reading Turn-In Checklist

* Copy of *Counting by 7’s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan.
* Double-Entry Journal with seven quotes and seven reflections
* Book Review for another book, fiction or nonfiction, read on MyOn.com
* *Counting by 7s* Mad Lib

All of this is due the first week of school. You may email your work when you finish it over the summer to: emarsha1@houstoisd.org or to [tjacks22@houstonisd.org](mailto:tjacks22@houstonisd.org)