



HOLY NAME OF MARY SCHOOL

90 S. Grove Street
Valley Stream, NY 11580
(516) 825-4009

Mrs. Pamela Sanders, *Principal*

Miss Andrea Ciminelli, *Assistant Principal*

June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Incoming 8th Grade Class,

Congratulations on completing the 2019-2020 academic year!

To help students maintain this year's reading progress and retain critical reading skills, all incoming 8th grade students must read a short biography about Edgar Allan Poe and a set of paired texts on drive-in movie theaters. All summer work for English class should be completed independently and is due on the first day of school.

As a simple introduction to our fall author study, students will read Gigliotti's *Who was Edgar Allan Poe?* (ISBN#:978-0448-4831-15). To guide their reading and help them self-monitor their comprehension of the nonfiction text, students must complete a four-page packet of graphic organizers. The biography will prepare students for our mini-unit on the horror genre, which will focus on tone/mood, suspense, unreliable narrators, and punctuation-based reading expression and fluency.

Through Google Classroom, students will also read Gary Soto's short story, "The Drive-In Movies," and two nonfiction articles on the same topic. An email invitation to access the Google Classroom will be sent to students' HNOM email addresses by July 1, 2020. Through the online platform, students will be able to read the story and articles, as well as complete multiple-choice and short-response questions on each text. The text set will allow students to practice making connections across genres. In addition, it will build the background knowledge that they will need to navigate the setting in *The Outsiders*, one of 8th grade's main novel units. (Since the drive-in theater is making a comeback in our new reality, this topic study will also provide a third benefit: students will be able to find modern relevancy within our 1960s novel unit!)

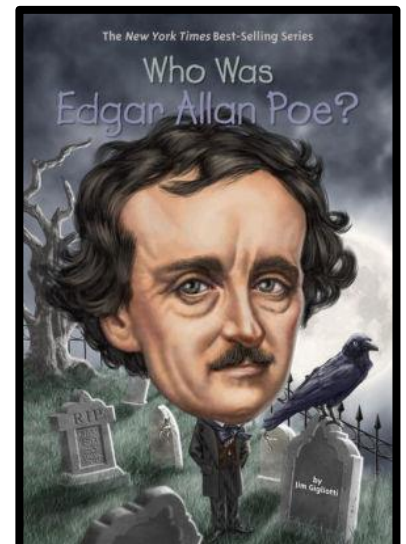
Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments throughout the summer at jbrown5578@hnomschool.org. Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer vacation! I look forward to working together to encourage learning and faith in our students this coming fall!

Sincerely,

Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown

English Language Arts Teacher, Grades 6-8





Name: _____

Date: _____

Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

Ms. Brown Grade 8



Identify Key Accomplishments

Making a Difference

DIRECTIONS: As you read Jim Gigliotti's *Who Was Edgar Allan Poe?*, record the author's accomplishments throughout his life on the chart below. Then, based on your completed chart, reflect on whether or not Poe was an admirable person (Is he a role model? In what ways?), and answer the text-dependent short response question in R.A.C.E. format.

LIST IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS	TEXT EVIDENCE (DIRECT QUOTES WITH PAGE NUMBERS)
<p>YOUNG ADULTHOOD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o _____ o _____ o _____ o _____ o _____ 	
<p>ADULTHOOD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o _____ o _____ o _____ o _____ o _____ 	

In R.A.C.E. format, answer the following question: Do you admire Edgar Allan Poe? Explain why or why not.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

Ms. Brown Grade 8



Determine Important Influences

Life's Building Blocks

DIRECTIONS: People's lives are filled with influences from the places they've lived, the people they've met, and the events they've lived through. As you read Jim Gigliotti's *Who Was Edgar Allan Poe?*, identify and explain how key outside forces shaped and changed the author's life – sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse.



CAUSES: List Life-Shaping Elements	EFFECTS: How did these elements change the person's life?
List important family members: O _____ O _____ O _____	
List other important people in his life: O _____ O _____ O _____	
List big events in his life: O _____ O _____ O _____	



Name: _____

Date: _____

Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

Ms. Brown Grade 8



Make Text-to-Self Connections

How Am I Like Poe?

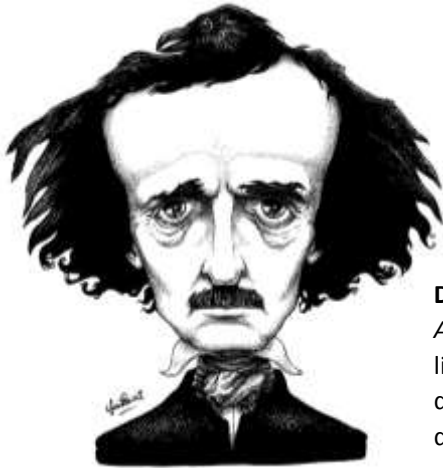
DIRECTIONS: When you read biographies or autobiographies, part of your job as a reader is to figure out how you feel about the person whose life story you are reading. Connecting and relating to the person helps you sympathize and put yourself in their shoes. Therefore, as you read Jim Gigliotti's *Who Was Edgar Allan Poe?*, take notes on aspects of the author's life and then jot down the ways in which you are similar and/or different from him in those areas of his life.

DURING-READING NOTES	TEXT-TO-SELF CONNECTIONS How are you similar or different to the author in each of these areas?
Home / Setting:	
Family:	
Interests and Hobbies:	
Personality:	

In R.A.C.E. format, answer the following question: What is the most surprising or interesting similarity and difference between you and the author? Explain your reasoning.

Name: _____
 Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

Date: _____
 Ms. Brown Grade 8



Synthesize Information

How Poe Helped the World

DIRECTIONS: As you read Jim Gigliotti's *Who Was Edgar Allan Poe?*, take notes on different aspects of the author's life in the chart below. Then, through the following text-dependent short response question, reflect on how the details add up to the author's legacy.



KEY TOPICS	What I learned from the reading:
SCHOOL	
WORK	
FAMILY	
PERSONALITY	

In R.A.C.E. format, answer the following question: What do you think is his most important contribution to our world? Explain why you feel it is the most important.
