



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade students must read a short biography about Charles Dickens and a set of paired texts about the middle ages and knighthood. 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 winter unit on Charles Dickens' novella, *A Christmas Carol*, students will read Pollack's *Who was Charles Dickens?* (ISBN#: 978-0448-4796-75). Students must complete a four-page packet of graphic organizers based on the short biography. The nonfiction text will prepare students for our unit on the Victorian Christmas classic, which will focus on characterization, research literacy for setting and historical context, and book-to-movie compare/contrast.

Through Google Classroom, students will also read Kyria Abrahams' short story, "Vanquishing the Gooples," and two nonfiction articles on the medieval time period and knighthood. 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 allusions in *Freak the Mighty*, an anticipated 7<sup>th</sup> grade novel unit for the 2020-2021 academic year.

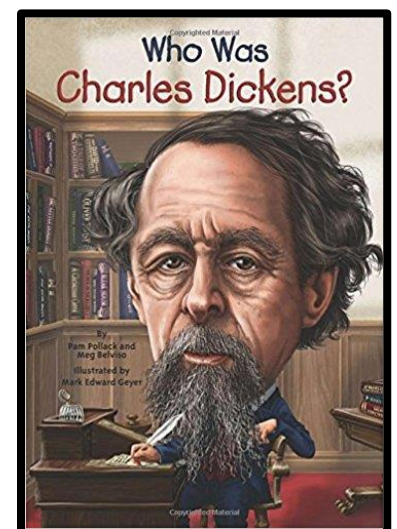
Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments throughout the summer at [jbrown5578@hnomschool.org](mailto:jbrown5578@hnomschool.org). Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer vacation! I look forward to working together to encourage learning and faith in our students this coming 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 7



## Identify Key Accomplishments

# Making a Difference

**DIRECTIONS:** As you read Pam Pollack’s *Who Was Charles Dickens?*, record the author’s accomplishments throughout his life on the chart below. Then, based on your completed chart, reflect on whether or not Dickens 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><b>YOUNG ADULTHOOD:</b></p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p>	
<p><b>ADULTHOOD:</b></p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p> <p>0 _____</p>	

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

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ms. Brown Grade 7



## 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 Pam Pollack's *Who Was Charles Dickens?*, identify and explain how key outside forces shaped and changed the author's life – sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse.



<b>CAUSES:</b> List Life-Shaping Elements	<b>EFFECTS:</b> How did these elements change the person's life?
List important family members:  0 _____ 0 _____ 0 _____	
List other important people in his life:  0 _____ 0 _____ 0 _____	
List big events in his life:  0 _____ 0 _____ 0 _____	



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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

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## Make Text-to-Self Connections

# How Am I Like Dickens?

**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 Pam Pollack's *Who Was Charles Dickens?*, 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.

<b>DURING-READING NOTES</b>	<b>TEXT-TO-SELF CONNECTIONS</b> 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.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ms. Brown      Grade 7

## Synthesize Information

# How Dickens Helped the World



**DIRECTIONS:** As you read Pam Pollack’s *Who Was Charles Dickens?*, 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.

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