



Fr. David M. Regan, *Pastor*

Mrs. Pamela Sanders, *Principal*

June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of the Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class,

Congratulations on completing the 2020-2021 academic year!

To help students maintain this year's reading progress and retain critical reading skills, all incoming seventh grade students must read two books for summer reading in English Language Arts class:

- **Holly Goldberg Sloan's *Short* (ISBN#: 978-0399-1862-26)**
- **Pam Pollack's *Who was Charles Dickens?* (ISBN#: 978-0448-4796-75)**

It is a fiction and nonfiction text pairing. Purchasing physical copies – rather than borrowing from a library or downloading on an e-reader – is strongly encouraged. Both titles are available in paperback for your convenience.

*Short* is a contemporary work of realistic fiction that promotes tolerance and celebrates diversity through the spunky voice of Julia Marks, an 11-year-old protagonist cast as a Munchkin in a summer production of *Wizard of Oz*. To supplement the novel, students must complete a packet of chapter-by-chapter comprehension question. It will guide their reading and help them self-monitor their comprehension of plot, characterization, and figurative language. The questions cover a range of formats: text-dependent short response, true/false, and multiple choice. Short response questions should be answered in complete sentences with restated questions and attention to capitalization and grammar.

As a very simple introduction to our winter unit on Charles Dickens's novella, *A Christmas Carol*, students will read Pollack's *Who was Charles Dickens?* 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.

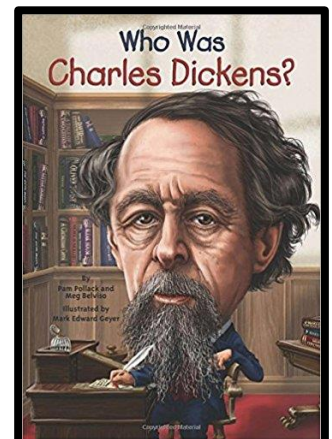
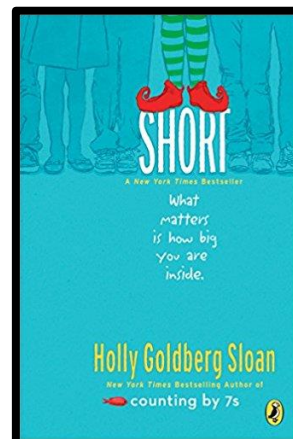
Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments throughout the summer at [jbrown5578@hnomschool.org](mailto:jbrown5578@hnomschool.org). Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer vacation! I look forward to working together to encourage learning and faith in our students this coming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

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

Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

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?
<p>List important family members:</p> <p>○ _____</p> <p>○ _____</p> <p>○ _____</p>	
<p>List other important people in his life:</p> <p>○ _____</p> <p>○ _____</p> <p>○ _____</p>	
<p>List big events in his life:</p> <p>○ _____</p> <p>○ _____</p> <p>○ _____</p>	



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

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

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Ms. Brown Grade 7



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Summer Reading: Biography Packet of Graphic Organizers

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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