



## ***Kulam*** Summer Learning

### *Middle School*

Thank you so much for being a part of the Kulam community of learners. Our staff is looking forward to continuing to develop our knowledge of each learner, enhance his/her strengths and support those areas that are weaker. Together, we will be working hard, learning new skills, and meeting challenges. During this past school year, students have made solid gains. We are proud of their effort, their growing stamina for learning and the progress each has made. We want to keep those hard earned skills sharp over the summer and avoid the summer “brain drain.” Yes, it really exists. Research shows that even under optimal conditions students can lose up to 60% of what they have worked so hard to gain. The following represents some of the recommendations and assistance for you and your student.

It is important to remember that your child works on an instructional level matching his/her grade level, but often independent levels vary. For continuing students, a lexile level range for reading will be provided.

### **Why do we require ‘Summer Learning?’**

All of our current students and those entering the Posnack School and Kulam Program have worked hard to achieve learning goals. We want this learning to continue, flourish and grow. Keeping skills sharp over the summer, levels the playing field when students return to school. Review is integral as students return to school but we want that review to be just that, review, and not complete reteaching.

### **What will my child need to do?**

First and foremost, we want our students to enjoy their summer experiences whether camp, travel or just plain fun. These meaningful activities cannot and should not be replaced. To enhance the meaning, discuss the experiences and build vocabulary from each one. Each experience then becomes a language learning opportunity.

## **Literacy:**

Of course, in our opinion, we would love each child to read, read and read. Please remember the more a child reads, the more words they bank. Reading is about building word banks, adding to comprehension, and feeding the brain.

### **What IS reading?**

- Child reads to him/herself
- Loved one reads to the child
- Child reads aloud to a loved one
- Taking turns reading; parent or sibling & child
- Audible books
- Read on a device (Kindles; iPads, etc.)
- Read and then watch the movie to enhance comprehension and recall



## 2017 7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Dear 7th Grade Students,

Over the summer, your assignment is to:

- **Do 10 hours of Mindplay-**I will be checking, and it will be a grade upon returning to school!
- Also, you will need to read **one book** over the summer. You have a **choice** of the following books:
  - *Treasure Hunters*, by James Patterson - Lexile level 750
  - *You are so Not Invited to my Bat-Mitzvah*, by Fiona Rosenbloom - Lexile level 730
  - *Out of my Mind*, by Sharon Draper - Lexile level 700
  - *Wonder*, by R.J. Palatio - Lexile level 790

It is my hope that you find the book you choose exciting and meaningful. It might be beneficial to **listen to the book, either while reading it, or after reading it.**

**While reading the book:**

- a. Use story markers by the **main characters, setting, important events, and feelings.**
- b. Complete the **attached** personal dictionary (I recommend typing both the dictionary and the short answer questions!).
  - Choose **12 words** from the novel that are new to you.
  - Find each word on **Dictionary.com**, and write the definition as used **in context** from the book.
  - **Write** an **original** sentence using the word that demonstrates the meaning of the word.

**Personal Dictionary**

**Word # 1** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 2** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 3** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 4** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 5** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 6** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 7** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 8** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 9** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 10** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 11** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**Word # 12** \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence from text (**with page #**):

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Definition from dictionary.com (as used in context):

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My original sentence:

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**After** reading the required book: Answer **ALL** of the following extended reading

questions, **using IRACE** (*Indent, Restate the question, Answer the*

*question, Cite from the book, and Explain the citation*). (Each

Extended Response needs to be **AT LEAST 6 SENTENCES** - 10 is better-

and to be written using IRACE!)

1. Write a brief **summary** of what you read (include the following: topic sentence, and answer the who, what, where, when and why.
2. What is the **conflict** in the novel? What would you do if you faced the same conflict?
3. What is the **setting** in the novel? How might the story be different if something in the setting changed?
4. Identify ONE **theme** of your story. (Remember, a theme is a larger idea, than just this story - examples include: poverty, jealousy, struggles of becoming an adult, etc).

It is my hope that you enjoy reading your book, and that it will be meaningful to you! I want you to enjoy your summer, and I am hoping that reading adds to the enjoyment! I'll miss you!

Ms. Gold

## Answering Extended Response Questions

Step 1: Read each question carefully. Circle any key words in the question.

Step 2: Identify the different parts to the question. Separate them with lines.

Step 3: Use the IRACE formula to create your response.

Step 4: Use evidence based terms to guide your answer.

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**I - Indent**

**R - Restate** (the question)

**A - Answer** (the question)

**C - Cite** (quotation) - put **page #**

**E - Explain** (how the quote answers the question )

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### Other tips:

- Use **12 point Times New Roman or Arial** font only
- **Double space** the paragraph
- Use correct **spelling, grammar** and **capitalization** - **No RIP words!**
- Make sure to **fully explain yourself**, and write as if the grader never read the story.