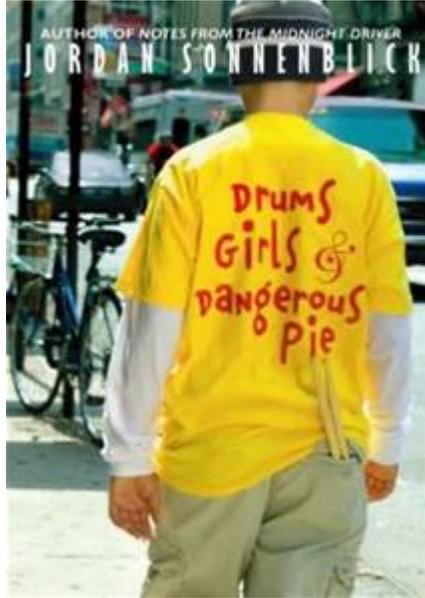


North Shore Hebrew Academy
7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment



Dear Students and Parents,

Over the summer, all students entering seventh grade will be reading the novel Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblik. The book will be available for purchase at Barnes & Noble on Northern Boulevard in Manhasset. It can also be found online.

Before, during and after reading, you should use the attached information to guide your reading and better help you understand the novel. Be prepared to hand in your assignments and annotated books on the first day of school.

In addition to the novel, students will be responsible for a list of vocabulary words. These words are linked here: <https://quizlet.com/44463199/7th-grade-summer-vocab-flash-cards/> or can be accessed by logging on to quizlet.com and then searching nshamiddleschool. This will bring you to the 7th Grade Summer Vocabulary link.

Students will have an assessment on both items upon entering school in September.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may email me at lguggenheimer@nsha.org

I look forward to a wonderful and productive year together!

Before Reading the Novel:

Read the articles:

Leukemia

[\(https://teenslivingwithcancer.org/cancer-facts/what-is-cancer/leukemia-2/\)](https://teenslivingwithcancer.org/cancer-facts/what-is-cancer/leukemia-2/)

Five Stages of Grief

Word Document

Watch the video:

The OC – Summer's Grief

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifg2wXv6vk>

While You Read the Novel:

- **Be sure to highlight and annotate sections of the novel that connect to the articles you have read as well as sections of the novel that provide you with information about setting (time, place or mood), character development (descriptions of physical or emotional aspects of a character), plot elements (how the story develops over the course of the novel) and themes (messages the author is teaching).**
- **Complete the following questions.**

Directions for completing the questions:

All answers must be written in COMPLETE sentences. EACH sentence must contain a minimum of 7-11 words. Each group of questions must be 8 sentences AND include at least 2 specific supporting details from the novel with page numbers.

Be sure to check all work for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

- 1) **After pages 1-36:** What kind of person is Steven? List several aspects of Steven’s personality so far and give supporting text examples with page numbers. Predict how you think he will respond to his brother’s illness in the upcoming chapters.

- 2) **After pages 37-79:** How is Steven handling Jeffrey’s illness so far? How is Jeffrey handling this disease? How is Jeffrey’s leukemia affecting each of the parents? What is Steven’s attitude toward his mom and dad?

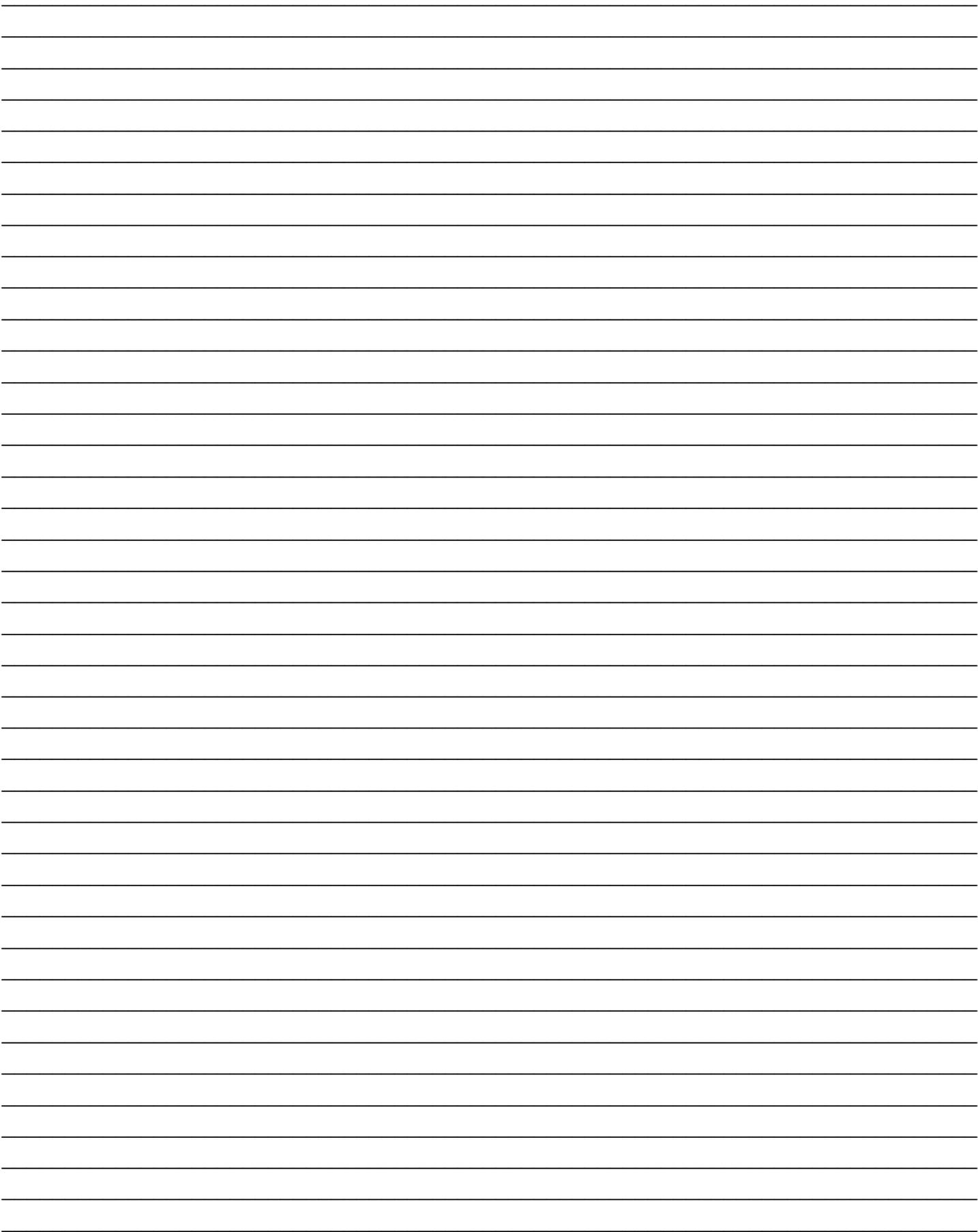
3) **After pages 80-130:** In what ways does Steven's concern for Jeffrey show in his thoughts and actions? What one escape does he have from his problems? How does Steven attempt to entertain and comfort Jeffrey?

4) **After pages 131-175:** Describe a few of the causes of Steven's anger in this section of the book. If you were Steven, do you think you would react the same way? Why or why not? Although he feels lonely and neglected, what signs are there that others really do care about him?

5) **After pages 176-205:** What causes Steven to seek his counselor's advice? What does she tell him to do? Do you think this is good advice for him? Why or why not? In what specific ways does he follow her advice and what is the outcome?

6) **After pages 206-242:** How does Steven’s visit to the hospital in Philadelphia change him and also make him more of a “man”? What does he see and whom does he meet at the hospital?

7) **After pages 243-273:** What factors cause Steven to leave the concert right before his big drum solo? Do you think it was the right decision? Why or why not? What would you have done in this situation?



Leukemia

[\(https://teenslivingwithcancer.org/cancer-facts/what-is-cancer/leukemia-2/\)](https://teenslivingwithcancer.org/cancer-facts/what-is-cancer/leukemia-2/)

Teens generally get one of two types of leukemia:

- **ALL** – Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia
- **AML** – Acute Myeloid or Myelogenous Leukemia

OK, so what is leukemia?

Leukemia is a form of **cancer** that starts in the **bone marrow** where all your **blood** is made. The bone marrow is a spongy material inside your bones where blood cells are produced and mature. Different types of blood cells are made in healthy bone marrow:

Red blood cells carry oxygen and nutrients to all cells in your body.

Platelets are cells that help your blood to clot and stop bleeding.

White cells help fight infection. The white cells are responsible for recognizing foreign substances like **bacteria** and viruses. White blood cells can communicate with each other to help fight infection. Some types of white blood cells make antibodies to destroy these foreign substances, and other white cells ingest the foreign substance.

(A little like Pac-Man!)

You have different types of white blood cells: lymphoid and myeloid.

The type of white blood cell that goes crazy determines the type of leukemia you have.

Those Darn Blast Cells...



Although the exact cause is unknown, something happens that makes very young cells multiply but never grow or mature to become useful or functional. These abnormal cells are called leukemia blasts or just blasts and are one indicator of leukemia.

What's so bad about blasts in your bone marrow and blood? These abnormal cells are taking up space and pushing out the normal, healthy cells in your bone marrow. The blasts take up all the room in your bone marrow and you cannot make normal, healthy blood cells. This puts you at risk for infections (low white blood), anemia (low red blood count) and bleeding (low platelet count).

Not Another Bone Marrow Biopsy...

A bone marrow sample is essential for an accurate diagnosis. The biggest sources of bone marrow in your body are your hips, the long bones of your legs, your breastbone and all the vertebrae of your spine. This explains why your bone marrow test may have been done in your hipbone. This is a big bone that contains lots of bone marrow and is a relatively safe place to do the test.

It will be extremely important to keep checking your bone marrow after your treatment is underway. You need to be sure that your treatment is clearing the leukemia cells from your bone marrow.

Speaking of Treatment...

The primary treatment for leukemia includes chemotherapy and maybe radiation, in some cases. Bone marrow transplantation is also sometimes used. Your specific diagnosis will determine what happens next. Your treatment will be planned by a team of cancer specialists with experience and expertise in treating leukemia. Working together with you and your parents, they will recommend the best plan of action.

Checking Counts...

Most of the time your blood counts will be checked to determine the status of your bone marrow. This will help your medical team know how your chemotherapy is working. Your counts will also give clues about what you might need to supplement your own body's supply of blood.

For example, if you are having headaches or feeling dizzy because your bone marrow can't make enough red blood cells, you will probably need a transfusion to help decrease your anemia.

Transfusions of platelets can also be done if you are having problems with bleeding.

“But It’s Only a Little Fever”...

You may have been warned about high fevers.

Why are fevers such a big deal?

Good question. Fevers are one sign of infection. If you have good counts and plenty of healthy white blood cells to fight infections, then a fever is not a huge problem. But if your white blood count is low, this is a big deal.

Serious infections can settle in your blood stream or other parts of your body (sepsis). If you don’t have a good supply of white blood cells and you have a fever over 38 C or 100.5 F, you will automatically be treated with antibiotics to help you fight off bacteria that can cause very serious, potentially life-threatening infections.

I’m In Remission – Why More Chemo?...

Many kids want to know why they have to keep getting chemotherapy even though they are in remission. This is another good question.

Remission is very important to achieve. It means that when the bone marrow is evaluated under the microscope, 95% of all the cells must be normal and there must be a good mixture of white blood cells, red cells and platelets. **No blasts allowed!** Your treatment will continue even though you are in remission to make sure that every last blast is destroyed by the chemotherapy.

Hang In There...



Getting rid of leukemia is demanding and difficult work, filled with some difficult turns. You need to be just as tough and determined to keep the leukemia out of your bone marrow as those blasts are determined to stay in your body. Get help from your doctors and nurses so they can answer your questions and help you adapt to life with this disease. Count on your parents, family and friends for support.

Try to meet other kids who are having treatment or who have already been through chemo. They can give you advice and encouragement.

Five Stages of Grief for Steven Alper

Find specific examples from the novel that show Steven experiencing each stage of grief. Your example may be a direct quote of something he says or an explanation of something he does. A page number is provided for one of the 2 required examples.

Stage one _____ (page 64)

Example #1 _____

Example #2 _____

Stage two _____ (page 132)

Example #1 _____

Example #2 _____

Stage three _____ (page 79)

Example #1 _____

Example #2 _____

Stage four _____ (page 150)

Example #1 _____

Example #2 _____

Stage five _____ (page 161)

Example #1 _____

Example #2 _____

FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF

When going through a traumatic event (i.e. death of loved one, terminal illness, traumatic injury, *etc.*), people tend to react in the same way. There are 5 stages most of us go through. Some people may skip a step altogether. The length of time in each step varies.

Stage One DENIAL

At first people may deny the event is happening. People may also SECLUDE from (or draw away from) their usual contacts (friends/family/*etc.*)

Stage Two ANGER

In this stage, the person is angry at different people. Angry at the cause (including the dead person). Angry at themselves. Angry at the world or society. The anger occurs, even if the incident was unavoidable.

Stage three BARGAINING

In this stage, the person gets in touch with God. Example: "If you take this away, I'll be nicer to everyone and give back to charity..."

Stage four DEPRESSION

At this point, the person is depressed. Depression takes many forms (not just sadness). He/she may be sad. There may be undertones of anger. Mostly, the person feels numb. They no longer care about hobbies, interests, work, or their happiness; he/she may sleep more and be more withdrawn than usual.

Stage five ACCEPTANCE

The anger, sadness, and numbness wear off. The person begins to accept the loss. This is not happiness or satisfaction with the result. The person begins to move on- he/she accepts the situation and starts to adjust. He/she moves on as a person and attempts personal growth.