

English:

Hello, rising sixth graders! Congratulations on a successful finish to your school year, and welcome to Middle School. For your summer reading assignment, you are required to read *I, Emma Freke* by Elizabeth Atkinson.

One major theme for English 6 next year is the notion of **belonging**. Young or old, we all want to be accepted and belong to a community. As emerging Middle Schoolers, this is particularly relevant to you, and 12 year old Emma Freke is no different. However, her height, her new age mother, and her name make fitting in difficult. When she receives an invitation to a family reunion on her father's side, Emma thinks she will finally fit in. However, her experience at the reunion helps to show her that sometimes it's good to stand out.

In response to the reading, please answer the following questions. The questions are intended to make you think about and interact with the reading. My hope is that you will make some personal connections with the text.

Questions:

1. Emma is always searching for a place to belong, but she also seems to envy Stevie's solitary life. Why does Emma want friends and family? Why does she want to be on her own? Can you relate to this situation? Tell me (in detail) why or why not.
2. Emma often thinks of the gold bead Penelope gives her when she's scared or confused. What does the bead mean to Emma? What gives you comfort when you are scared or confused? Explain how or why it works for you.
3. In the end, Emma makes a list of ways to find "joylah." Tell me (in detail) about what gives you "joylah."

I will be evaluating your work based on the strength and originality of your **ideas**, the **thoughtfulness and thoroughness** of your responses, and the **clarity and organization** of your writing

All papers should be...

- carefully proofread
- word-processed
- double-spaced
- 12 point font with one inch margins

Due: The first week of class.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at ahogan@mphschool.org. Remember that you are welcome (encouraged, in fact!) to read lots of other books this summer. If you'd like some suggestions, feel free to email me.

Enjoy your summer!

Mrs. Hogan