

Joseph B. Cavallaro, I.S. 281

6th Grade Summer Assignment 2021-2022

Hello incoming 6th Graders!

Welcome to Joseph B. Cavallaro, I.S. 281. This year in Unit 1 you will be exploring the following essential questions: *How do we build empathy in our community? What personal qualities have helped you to deal with conflict and change?* To best prepare for the work at the start of the year students are *required* to engage in the following tasks:

- Read “*Fish Cheeks*,” by Amy Tan and answer the questions that follow.
- Watch the Ted Talk: *How a 13 year old changed 'Impossible' to 'I'm Possible* and answer the questions that follow.
- Write an original “I Am” poem using the template provided.

In September you will be required to submit the completed assignments to your ELA teacher. These assignments will serve as the pre-work needed for Unit 1 and prepare you to dig deeper and further explore the essential questions. Should you have any questions regarding the tasks feel free to reach out to fmohassib@schools.nyc.gov. We hope you all have a wonderful and restful summer and look forward to welcoming you into the building in September.

Read: “Fish Cheeks,” by Amy Tan

<https://www.ncps-k12.org/cms/lib8/CT01903077/Centricity/Domain/638/LA/Short%20Story%20-%20Fish%20Cheeks.pdf>

Answer the questions below from the text, “*Fish Cheeks*,” by Amy Tan. Be sure to use complete sentences and reference the text to support your answer.

1. Compare and contrast how the speaker’s family acts during the dinner to how the minister’s family acts. Why do you think they act so differently?

2. Food is important because it is often cultural. What we eat or how we eat says a lot about our identity and our background. What unique/cultural dishes does your family like to eat? How might someone from a different culture view your cultural dishes?

3. Think about the perspective of Robert, the minister’s son. Have you ever participated in a culture or tradition that was different from your own? It could be a meal, a wedding, a religious ceremony, a trip to another country, etc. What was it like, and what did you learn from your experience?

4. Explain in your own words what you think Amy Tan’s mother means when she says, “Your only shame is to have shame.”

Listen: Ted Talk: How a 13 year old changed 'Impossible' to 'I'm Possible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC0hIK7WGcM>

Answer the questions below from the **Ted Talk: How a 13 year old changed 'Impossible' to 'I'm Possible**. Be sure to use complete sentences and reference the video when possible.

1. *Empathy* is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. How does the speaker, Sparsh Shah, display empathy?

2. What 4 steps does the speaker say is needed to change the impossible to I'm possible?

3. The speaker says, "Everyone goes through struggles in the world." What was his struggle and how did he overcome it?

4. What if everyone in the world demonstrated empathy? How would the world be different?

Write: Create an original “I Am” poem that captures your identity; how people see you, and how you see yourself within the context of your family, friends, and community. Click on the link below to see a sample “I Am” poem. Be sure to maintain the structure of the poem using the sample as a model. Since the last line is repeated in all 3 stanzas, be thoughtful about what you want it to convey about yourself.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ukwLnsXrxfLsVB3lwyMwoXxJyIsuAtJ_T_SGwO_Z9_g/edit

“I Am” Poem

I am
I wonder
I hear
I see
I want
I am

I pretend
I feel
I touch
I worry
I cry
I am

I understand
I say
I dream
I try
I hope
I am