

English VII: Summer Reading Assignment

Summer 2021

Dear Future Form 7 Students,

We cannot wait to have you in English class next school year. To make sure we have a strong start to our year together, you will complete a reading assignment over the summer break. This summer, you will read Holly Goldberg Sloan's new novel *The Elephant in the Room* (ISBN: 978-0-7352-2994-5). As you read, you will complete the attached assignment. You may either do the assignment on the computer or print it out on paper.

To get you excited to read the novel, please see below for a brief plot summary. We promise there are no spoilers!

"It's been almost a year since Sila's mother traveled halfway around the world to Turkey, hoping to secure the immigration paperwork that would allow her to return to her family in the United States.

The long separation is almost impossible for Sila to withstand. But things change when Sila accompanies her father (who is a mechanic) outside their Oregon town to fix a truck. There, behind an enormous stone wall, she meets a grandfatherly man who only months before won the state lottery. Their new alliance leads to the rescue of a circus elephant named Veda, and then to a friendship with a boy named Mateo, proving that comfort and hope come in the most unlikely of places.

*A moving story of family separation and the importance of the connection between animals and humans, this novel has the enormous heart and uplifting humor that readers have come to expect from the beloved author of *Counting by 7s*."*

Please bring your novel and your completed assignment to school in August. We will use *The Elephant in the Room* during our first unit of the year, so it is important that you be well prepared to dive in. If you have any questions about the summer reading assignment, you may email us at egarcia@columbuschoolforgirls.org or epage@columbuschoolforgirls.org.

We hope you have a wonderful summer. Remember to rest, relax, and read! We look forward to working with you all in Form 7 English.

All the best,
Ms Garcia & Mrs Page



Directions: Fill out the chart below with evidence (direct quotes) from your reading--include page numbers!

Topic	Evidence (direct quote(s) and page number(s))	Your Reflection (1-2 complete sentences on why this evidence shows proof of the topic listed on the left)
Character Development of: (Add character #1 name) <i>Consider their character traits: Attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs that are revealed through the character's actions, words, feelings, and thoughts.</i>		
Character Development of: (Add character #2 name) <i>Consider their character traits: Attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs that are revealed through the character's actions, words, feelings, and thoughts.</i>		
Conflict #1: (Add a brief description of one of the internal or external conflicts)		
Conflict #2: (Add a brief description of one of the internal or external conflicts)		
Possible Overall Theme #1: (Add theme statement here. Remember that it's the author's message to the reader, and it usually is more than one word)		
Possible Overall Theme #2: (Add theme statement here. Remember that it's the author's message to the reader, and it usually is more than one word)		