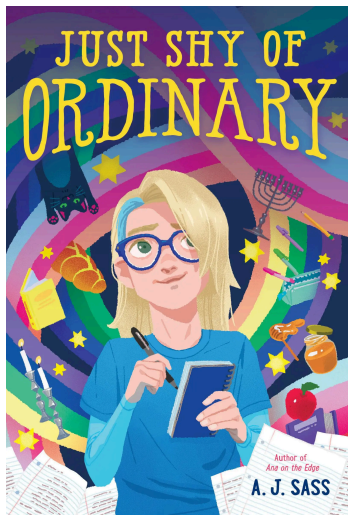


Dear Class of 2026,

It's been good getting to know you through our brief interactions at school. Now I am excited to be your teacher for the academic year 2024-25, when we will study the Middle Ages, world geography, systems of power, literature, poetry, and the writing process. I am especially excited to explore alongside you world cultures as they emerged in medieval times and continue to develop today.

You will have a few assignments to do over the summer. None of it is too dark or too deep, but we want you to keep flexing your brains. Here's what you need to do while also spending time with loved ones and rejuvenating for the next school year:

- 1) Write a letter to me
- 2) Record notes based on the summer reading book, *Just Shy of Ordinary*
- 3) Choose your independent reading book and bring it to class the first day of school



Before I delve into the instructions for each of these assignments, you should know a few details about the summer reading book by A.J. Sass.

This work of realistic fiction is about the life of Shai. They're a non-binary, Jewish middle school student, who's been homeschooled but is now entering the 9th grade. As they transition to a new school, they try to balance new-found friendships and maintain the ones they've had from homeschool.

Plan out how much you need to read each day or each week to finish reading the novel. This book is 362 pages long, so plan on reading about 6 to 10 pages a day. Jot down brief notes immediately after completing each chapter, so that details remain fresh in your mind. Your notes per chapter can be 2-3 bullet points or sentences.

Follow the directions on the other side.

Please read the novel and complete this [Google Doc](#) (assigned to you via Google Classroom) which is due on the first day of school. This is one of your first graded assignments of 7th grade and it will be the basis for your first literary essay.

Plan to get your own copy of the summer reading book. If you have any trouble finding a copy in your local library, bookstore, or via Amazon, please email frontdesk@sfschool.org or me and we will help you. You must also decide on an independent reading book before school resumes.

Please make sure you have both of these books with you on the first day of school, since we will be using them from day one for comprehension, discussion, and writing activities.

Have a great summer! May you find many moments to play, relax, and enjoy. Best, Adele

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT DIRECTIONS

Writing expectations: Typed, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double spaced

1. **Write a letter addressed to me.** Choose a photo that has you in it and include it in the document. In your letter, tell me about what's going on in the frame of the picture (the picture the viewer sees). Be detailed in your description. Also describe what's going on outside the frame (what the viewer does not see). This is an important detail because the photographer chose to frame the photograph as they did. Just as important as what's in the frame is what's outside the frame. Also, what's your relationship with the photographer? (Minimum one-page response, double-spaced)

2. **Take reading Notes for *Just Shy of Ordinary*;** use this [Google Doc](#) (same link as on first page) to record your notes at the end of each **chapter**. **Jot down brief notes (2-3 bullet points or sentences).** I filled out the first row in the table, so you have a model. Note clues about the characters, important events, conflicts, impactful moments, and any questions you might have about the story.

3. ***Select your first Independent Reading Book to be brought to school on the first day:*** If there is a particular book that you are eager to read, find it at the library or your local bookstore. Bring it with you from day one; we will begin many of our days with independent reading of a chapter book. You will complete assignments and book reviews on independent reading throughout the year. Keep in mind it must be a novel or a piece of nonfiction.

Summer Homework Assignments Point Values

<i>Just Shy of Ordinary</i> chapter notes	50
Independent Reading Book brought to school on the first day	10
<u>Letter Addressed to Adele</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	80