



# KZV's Summer Reading Program

Summer of 2023



## MY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONPLACE BOOK

A commonplace book is a literary practice that dates back to ancient and medieval times. Authors, writers, and everyday folk kept detailed books filled with quotes, thoughts, sketches, and the like. By the seventeenth century, this practice was popularized in academic circles as universities used “commonplacing” (the act of creating a commonplace book) in literature classes. In modern history, American founders, political leaders, authors, and most great literary figures all kept commonplace books. Typically, commonplace books are not personal journals for logging one’s own personal thoughts on life; rather, they are notebooks for recording thoughts and passages from the works of others. You can think of it as an intellectual journal of ideas.

This summer, you will be creating your own, personal, amazing record of the summer of 2023! I have organized the entries to be FUN and interesting (at least for me). You are to use the journal I provided. NOTE: You must decorate this journal on each side. MAKE IT YOURS! It can have cool objects, glitter, buttons, stickers, feathers, leaves, candy wrappers...you name it. Once you have decorated it, you can begin the process of creating your commonplace book.

**How to begin:** You will follow the schedule and prompts below. There will be two prompts required per week. Please note: If you are on vacation, you can take this journal with you, or you can make up the prompt when you return home. In the case of attending a one week sleepaway camp, you can return home and write one of your prompts about the experience at camp - even maybe bring a leaf, glue, memento, or some object and write about it! Each entry should be at least one page, and should be thoughtful. **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO NUMBER EACH ENTRY SO IT MATCHES THE PROMPT - all writing must be in blue or black pen, but interactive colored pages can be with markers, crayons, pencils and any other art supplies! Glitter, feathers, stickers, you name it.**

**\*\*Here is one more thing I would like you to practice. WRITING IN CURSIVE. I have included a simple, practical workbook to teach you the art of writing in cursive. By week four, I think you should try to write your entries in cursive. Try it, it's fun, it's fast, and it will teach you how to read some of the historical documents that we will be reading in middle school.**

<p>Week 1 June 18-24</p>	<p>Entry #1. Retell a special, fun moment from the previous school year. Use details, names, time of day, weather, sounds, comments from friends, and why this moment was such a special one! (Pen)</p> <p>Entry #2 Find an object that is flat - tape it into your book - describe why you chose this object and then write a silly poem or song about the object.</p>
<p>Week 2 June 25- June 30</p>	<p>Entry #3 Write a letter to a famous person. This can be an athlete, historical figure, politician, musician, gamer, chef, artist, singer, social media influencer. Ask them four questions and then tell them why you are asking them these questions. (Pen)</p> <p>Entry #4 Draw a picture of your favorite room in the house. Glue or tape an object from this room in your journal. Then write a poem, paragraph, or song about this room. Make it colorful, and use a lot of sensory detail!</p>
<p>Week 3 July 5-8</p>	<p>Entry #5 VACATION PROMPT - you get to write anything or glue an object and decorate the page using crayons and markers - if you travelled somewhere, go ahead and use an object from the trip. If you just stayed home, go ahead and use an object that reminds you of this week!</p> <p>(ONLY ONE ENTRY FOR THIS WEEK)</p>
<p>Week 4 July 10 - 14</p>	<p>Entry #6 For this prompt, everyone should copy the following and then write a whole page responding to the prompt. You can use your opinion and write from what you know. (Pen)</p> <p>In the book WONDER by R.J. Palacio, Amos says “Don’t try too hard to be cool. It always shows, and that’s uncool.” I agree/disagree with the statement because...</p> <p>Entry #7 Find an object that reminds you of what it means to be a FRIEND. Then, decorate that page with symbols, words, colors, drawings of what friendship means to you. (DO NOT PUT A PHOTO OF YOUR FRIEND) only use symbols and drawings.</p>
<p>Week 5 July 17 - 21</p>	<p>Entry #8 Let’s face it, some people can BUG YOU. How do you deal with people who bug you? After writing about this, go ahead and write STOP BUGGING ME!!!!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>Entry #9 What is your favorite song and WHY? Please write the lyrics to the song!</p>
<p>Week 6 July 24-28</p>	<p>Entry #10 HAPPY PAGE. Write a joke or funny quote - and then color and decorate that page with the colors that make you HAPPY. You can even use glitter, stickers, glue, any crafty things - if this makes the book bumpy and bulky, that is totally fine.</p> <p>Entry #11 Go outside. Find an object that is from your yard or from a park. (Please nothing stinky and no bugs) paste or tape it into the book and then DESCRIBE THE DAY.</p>

<p>Week 7 July 31 - August 5</p>	<p>Entry #11 Draw a picture of yourself in the year 2040. WHO ARE YOU? Pretend it's the same day in 2040, and write a journal entry as THE PERSON YOU HAVE BECOME.</p> <p>Entry #12. Free write. Poem, rant, drawing, song, vision board, you name it. It's a free write.</p>
<p>Week 8 August 7- 11</p>	<p>Entry #13 - I don't like Feta Cheese. Actually, I hate it and refuse to even touch it. What food makes you want to vomit, hurl, or simply makes you grossed out???????</p> <p>Entry #14 - HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE. Write about three things you are thankful for. It can be three paragraphs, three poems, or three songs.</p>
<p>Week 9 August 14- 18</p>	<p>Entry #15 - Pretend you have no access to a phone, video games, iPad, TV, or any technology. What will you do all day to have fun? Do you think technology helps or hurts us?</p> <p>Entry #16</p> <p>Find an object (or draw one) and write about why you chose this object. Then write three adjectives that describe this object.</p>
<p>Week 10 August 21 - 25</p>	<p>Entry #17 For this last entry, I want you to write a letter to yourself. Put it in an envelope, seal it, and tape it into the journal. I will not read this letter - this is for YOU. After you tape it, go ahead and decorate the page, add objects that remind you of the summer of 2023, and be ready for an awesome school year!!!!!!</p>

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [sevanapanosian@kzv.org](mailto:sevanapanosian@kzv.org)