BEFORE READING – think about the quote below...

“Endings are beginnings, and beginnings are ours to turn into something good.”  *Elizabeth Chandler*

1. **Write a note to yourself** about the end of this school year, including your hopes as you begin next year in 8th grade.

DURING READING - read the poem below carefully and the questions below to help you analyze the poem.

**Advice for Eighth Grade**

*(that I would give myself if I could travel back through time)*

by Jennifer Dignan

_one_

when you go to use
your beloved dophelp
and realize it’s missing

don’t waste your time searching
you are never going to find it

_two_

when you have the chance
to harilumdrum
but you’re not sure you will succeed

try it anyway—or be prepared to spend the next eight months
wishing that you had

_three_

when Blickity Blap
tells you sha-la-la-la-la
and you feel upside down and inside out

take a very deep breath and repeat:
“this is going to be okay” (which it will)

_four_

when you and Zap Dapper
get in a fight and
you burn with indignation

apologize, forgive; do not allow the end
of such a long and valuable friendship

_five_

when you are tempted
to karaffle-pring
sure that nothing too bad could happen

 don’t try it

just trust me on this one, okay?

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*Go to Scope Online to hear the poet read her poem aloud.*
AFTER Reading:
Respond to the following questions.

1. Who wrote this poem? Who is the poem written for?

2. Why is the title an important part of the poem?

3. Complete the chart below.

| Describe the structure of the poem – in other words, the way it is organized— by answering the questions below. |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. How many stanzas are there? **Hint:** stanzas are like paragraphs. | b. Does each stanza contain advice about one situation or more than one situation? **Hint** each stanza has a problem and a solution. | c. What do all of the stanzas have in common in terms of their structure? **Look at the number of lines, any repeated words or phrases, etc.** | d. In each stanza, how are the first three lines related to the last two lines? **Hint** each stanza has a problem and a solution. |

4. How do the nonsense words and silly names affect the meaning, emotion, and tone of the poem?

(To answer, it might help to think about how the poem would be different if the nonsense words were real words and if the silly names were regular names.)

The nonsense words and silly names below are used in the poem “Advice for Eight Grade” and they have been given a possible meaning you can use to help you better understand the poem.

**Stanza 1 nonsense word** - Dopkeep – can be replaced with (Laptop)
**Stanza 2 nonsense word** - Harillumdrum – can be replaced with (try out for the talent show)
**Stanza 3 nonsense word** - sha-la-la-la-la – can be replaced with (something to confusing you)
**Stanza 5 nonsense word** - karfaffle-pring – can be replaced with (do some extremely dangerous)

**Stanza 3 nonsense silly name** – Blickity Blap – can be replaced with – (Mary Jane)
**Stanza 4 nonsense silly name** – Zap Dapper – can be replaced with – (Keith Church)
5. Would you want to read advice from yourself at an older age? Why or why not?

6. Choice Board – select ONE task to complete.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice Board</th>
<th>Make a list for each of the following:</th>
<th>Choose one of your favorite characters from a novel. Then fill out the four lists from the box directly left of this one, but from the perspective of that character.</th>
<th>Write your own “Advice for ____” poem, in which you are the speaker, looking back and giving advice to your younger self. It could be for this past school year, for a particular experience, for a certain activity, or for anything else you want.</th>
<th>Write your own “Advice for ____” poem. Then:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Times I should have really treasured:</td>
<td>Times I wish I’d had some encouragement:</td>
<td>Times I wish I’d been warned about something:</td>
<td>Times I wish I’d known something sooner:</td>
<td>Draw yourself holding it in front of you, using Dignan’s poem as a model. or Create a similar look holding your poem up in front of you and have someone take a photo. or Come up with a new concept design completely!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Record yourself reading Jennifer Dignan’s poem aloud and send it to a friend or family member.</td>
<td>Come up with a list of as many of your own nonsense words and silly names as you can. GO!</td>
<td>Consider the advice in the fourth stanza. Imagine what might have happened between the speaker of the poem and his or her friend. Now write a letter from the point of view of the speaker to the friend, making things right.</td>
<td>Turn Dignan’s poem or your own poem into a rap or other type of song. Record it or share it with others.</td>
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