



THE KNOX SCHOOL  
Always Toward the Light

---

Summer Assignment  
English 8

*Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly

Hard copy on the first day of your English class

MLA FORMAT, WORK CITED PAGE REQUIRED

Word Count: 1500

**Topic:** For this assignment, you will write four reflective journal entries and one 500 word essay (approximately two pages typed). Please use proper MLA citation and examples from the novel to support your answer. This is due the first day of class and will count as a project grade. It should be in a plastic book report folder with an MLA formatted title page when you hand it in.

**Journal Entries:** You are expected to write four journal entries while reading the novel. You can pick four topics from the choices below. Each journal entry will be about one page, double spaced. Because these are informal entries, you may write from the first person point of view. Please type the prompt on the top of your page so that it is clear what you are responding to.

1. Describe the problem/conflict of this book.
2. Summarize the main events in this book so far.
3. Who is your favorite or least favorite character? Why?
4. Do any of the characters remind you of yourself, a family member, or a friend? How?
5. Are there situations in the story where you would have acted differently than one of the characters? Describe what you would have done.
6. Compare and contrast two characters. Include at least three important similarities and three important differences.
7. Describe the setting (time and place). Does it remind you of anywhere you are familiar with?
8. What do you like best about the story? The least? Why?
9. Does this story remind you of other books you have read, movies you have seen, or experiences you have had? Describe the similarities.
10. What did the author do in order to "hook" the reader? Explain.
11. Are the characters believable? Why or why not?
12. If you could spend one day with a character, who would it be and what would you do? Explain why you chose these activities for this particular character.

Part 2: Essay. The essay should be about two pages double spaced, MLA format. Because this is a formal essay, you will be writing in the third person and should not include opinions or the words, I, me, we, our, etc.

**Essay Topic:**

- ❖ Think about Valencia's view of friendship at the beginning of the book. How does her view of friendship change throughout the course of the novel? Are there any major

changes in any of the other characters in the story? Explain. Use details from the book to support your answer.

For the introduction to your essay, you should include a thesis statement that addresses the essay question (s).

In the body of your essay, you should share at least three examples that support your thesis.

Each of these examples from the novel should be briefly summarized. Subsequently, you will want to explain in detail how the example supports your position. It is important to devote at least one paragraph to each example. Make sure to support your arguments with direct quotations from the text.

In your conclusion, you will wrap up the essay. Your concluding paragraph should avoid a repeat of the introduction. Your conclusion reminds the reader of the thesis while answering the question, "So what?"

**Due Date:** A paper copy of the assignment will be due on the first day of your English 8 class and will be graded as a major assignment. All late assignments will be subject to grade deductions and penalties.

**MLA Guidelines and Directions:** Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font. Block quotes do not count for word count. The essay should be at least 500 words in length. Use the example below for your work cited page:

#### Work Cited

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello, Universe*. Greenwillow Books, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2017.

Have a great summer! Happy reading!