

CHOICE BOARD

"DEAR FUTURE"

Imagine that James has decided to keep his own "Dear Future" journal. Write one of his entries.

Note: This is the contest prompt that appears at the end of the story.

Go to Scope Online to watch [this Author Read-Aloud video](#) in which poet Jennifer Dignan recites her poem "Advice for Eighth Grade." Take up her challenge at the end of the video, writing your own "Advice for _____" poem modeled after hers, but with a twist: Imagine you are James, looking back and giving advice to your younger self.

With at least one classmate, go to Scope Online to read or listen to these paired texts about growing up: [the story "13 and a Half"](#) and the poem "[On Turning 10.](#)"

Afterward, discuss:

- Compare Ashley's attitude about being 13 and a half with the attitude about turning 10 expressed in the poem.
- How do these attitudes relate to those of the characters in "Dear Future"?
- How do you think life changes from childhood to adulthood?

Pick a line or excerpt from the story that you found particularly interesting, powerful, or relatable and illustrate it. Include the line or excerpt within or beneath your illustration. In a separate document, explain why you chose that line or excerpt.