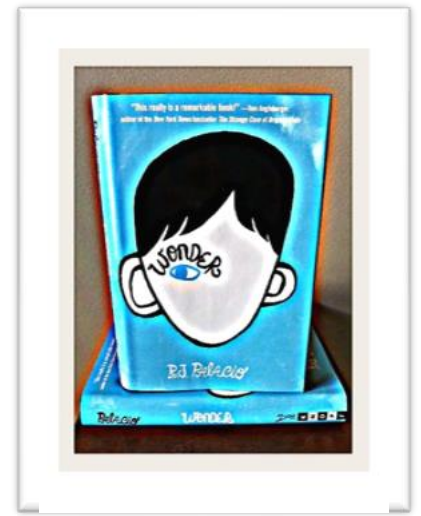




Stephenson Middle School  
Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
2023 Summer Reading Packet



Dear S.M.S. Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome Stephenson Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grader! You are now a Jaguar! It is time to complete your enrichment novels. Happy Summer Break! We are certainly sure that you are basking in the sun in the ambience of your peace, and it is truly well deserved. Yet, we must stay on track. This summer all rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders must read at least three books. Students must complete the **Summer Reading log** and are strongly encouraged to complete the guided reading questions for **Wonder** as they will be given graded assignments using the novel at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

Required Reading **Wonder** by R.J. Palacio is a story of a 10-year-old boy named August Pullman, who has a facial anomaly. He is an ordinary kid who plays Xbox, is obsessed with *Star Wars*, but despite the 27 operations done for his face, he will never look normal.

Please complete the guided reading questions and vocabulary activity in this packet for the novel **Wonder**. Additional reading titles are listed in this packet as well. Please read **two** additional novels of your choice. Remember to log all novels read this summer including **Wonder**. Let's get Jaguar ready for the Fall!

Enjoy your Jag reading time,

S.M.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teachers and Supporting Staff





# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Novel Study

## ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio

You may print this page and write on it or write the questions and your answers in complete sentences on notebook paper neatly.

### **Guided Reading Questions**

#### Part One - August

Why do people look away quickly when they first see August?

In this section August discusses the issue of him going to school. Why has he never gone to school? Do you think he should?

August goes on the tour of the school and meets three students. In your opinion which one would turn out to be a bully?

What does September's precept, "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind," mean?

Why does August use a simile to compare himself and Summer to "Beauty and the Beast?"

Why is Halloween a positive thing for August?

#### Part 2 - Via

Do you think Via is jealous of all the attention August gets?

Did Via have a good first day of high school?

Who is Miranda and why did she call?

August decided to change his costume. How do you think mom reacted to this?

### Part Three - Summer

Would you describe Summer as a good person? Why or why not?

Do you think Summer thinks Jack is a good friend?

### Part Four - Jack

Jack seems to struggle with how he feels about August. What are the positive and negative reasons he gives about being ex- friends with him?

Who said, "Sometimes you don't have to mean to hurt someone to hurt them," and what does he or she mean by that?

Who does something to the class picture and what character traits do it show about that person?

What is the war that is beginning? What role does Julian play in it?

### Part Five - Justin

While at dinner Justin has a lot of tics. What are tics and why do they stop?

Justin and Olivia are in a play, but Olivia (Via) has not told her parents about it yet. Why do you think she hasn't told them?

### Part Six - August

August gets hearing aids in this section. How does he feel about them in the beginning and towards the end of pages in this section?

Daisy is August's dog, who has been sick for a while. Why hasn't August noticed this?

Part Seven - Miranda

Miranda and Via used to be good friends. Why did their relationship change?

Miranda pretends to be sick on opening night. In your opinion why do you think she did that?

Part Eight - August

How does August feel about going on the 5th Grade Nature Retreat?

Jack and August find themselves in trouble. What is the trouble and who helps them?

August lies to the teachers about not being able to remember the 7th graders faces. Why do you think he did this?

What animal does August use to represent himself? Do you think it is a good choice?

There is a ceremony at school, what happens at the ceremony that shows a change from the beginning to the end of the school year?

Mr. Tushman said, "Always try to be a little kinder than necessary."  
What does that mean to you?

**" Wonder" Novel Vocabulary**

<b>Word</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Sentence</b>
1. ordinary		
2. hysterical		
3. hindsight		
4. obnoxious		
5. precept		
6. stampede		
7. mortality		
8. catastrophe		
9. quivered		
10. meticulously		
11. apparition		
12. exasperated		

13. horrific		
14. syndrome		
15. sympathetic		
16. potential		
17. stringent		
18. protocol		
19. monologue		
20. seismic		

## Suggested Summer Reading Novels

These books may be available in the public library system, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.com.

***Almost Home***, by Joan Bauer

Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness.

***Becoming Naomi León***, by Pam Muñoz Ryan

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

***The Fear Place***, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When he and his older brother Gordon are left camping alone in the Rocky Mountains, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fear of heights and his feelings about Gordon -- with the help of a cougar.

***The Melting of Maggie Bean***, by Tricia Rayburn

Hoping to make new friends and gain the attention of her crush, Peter Applewood, overweight, straight-A student Maggie Bean, decides to try out for the synchronized swim team.

***Moo***, by Sharon Creech

Following one family's momentous move from the city to rural Maine, an unexpected bond develops between twelve-year-old Reena and one very ornery cow. When Reena, her little brother, Luke, and their parents first move to Maine, Reena does not know what to expect. She is ready for beaches, blueberries, and all the lobster she can eat. Instead, her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna and that stubborn cow, Zora.

***My Life in Pink and Green***, by Lisa Greenwald

Lucy's family's beloved pharmacy is in financial trouble. When she learns of a grant to help the store become more environmentally friendly -- and expand into an eco-spa, her dream business -- she is determined to get it.

***My Louisiana Sky***, by Kimberly Willis Holt

Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950s, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern, but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her good friend and neighbor, Jesse.

***The Perfect Score***, by Rob Buyea

Randi the gymnast, Gavin the football fanatic, Trevor the tough guy, Scott the brainiac, and Natalie the know-it-all are all in Mrs. Woods's sixth-grade class. When the time for statewide assessment tests arrives, these unlikely friends' band together to put in motion a big idea that will have huge consequences.



***Rain, Reign***, by Ann M. Martin

Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines to search for her pet.

***Secret Language of Girls***, by Frances O'Roark Dowell

Marylin and Kate have been friends since nursery school, but when Marylin becomes a middle school cheerleader and Kate begins to develop other interests, their relationship is put to the test.

***Shouting at the Rain***, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Delsie loves tracking the weather--lately, though, the squalls are in her own life. She is always lived with her kindhearted Grammy, but now she is looking at their life with new eyes and wishing she could have a "regular family." Delsie observes other changes in the air, too--the most painful being a friend who is outgrown her.

***Sidetracked***, by Diana Harmon

If middle school were a race, Joseph Friedman would not even be in last place--he would be on the sidelines. With an overactive mind and phobias of everything from hard-boiled eggs to gargoyles, he struggles to understand his classes, let alone his fellow classmates. So, he spends most of his time avoiding school bully Charlie Kastner and hiding out in the Resource Room, a safe place for misfit kids like him.

But then, on the first day of seventh grade, two important things happen. First, his Resource Room teacher encourages (i.e., practically forces) him to join the school track team, and second, he meets Heather, a crazy-fast runner who isn't going to be pushed around by Charlie Kastner or anybody else.

With a new friend and a new team, Joseph finds himself off the sidelines and in the race (quite literally) for the first time. Is he a good runner? Well, no, he is terrible. But the funny thing about running is, once you are in the race, anything can happen.

***Sports Story Series***, by Fred Bowen

Books in this series by Fred Bowen focus on a single sport. Each book is fast-paced, and action packed. The books may be read in any order.

***A Week in the Woods***, by Andrew Clements

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

***Dear America series***, by various authors

Written in a diary format, each historical novel is extensively researched from actual letters and diaries, allowing readers to experience the daily lives of girls from various times in American history.

**My Name is America series**, by various authors

Adventure-based historical fiction series written in journal (diary) format and designed to appeal to boy readers.

**Nory Ryan's Song**, by Patricia Reilly Giff

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, twelve-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity helps her family and neighbors survive.

**A Single Shard**, by Linda Sue Park

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

**Something Upstairs**, by Avi

When he moves from Los Angeles to Providence, Rhode Island, Kenny discovers that his new house is haunted by the spirit of a Black slave boy who asks Kenny to return with him to the early nineteenth century and prevent his murder by slave traders.

**Turtle in Paradise**, by Jennifer L. Holm.

In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in faraway Key West, Florida.

**Walking With Miss Millie**, by Tamara Bundy

Alice is angry at having to move to Rainbow, Georgia—a too small, too hot, dried-up place she is sure will never feel like home. Then she gets put in charge of walking her elderly neighbor's dog. But Clarence will not budge without Miss Millie, so Alice and Miss Millie walk him together. Strolling with Miss Millie quickly becomes the highlight of Alice's day, as she learns about the town's past and meets a mix of its catty and kind residents. As the two become confidantes, Alice is finally able to express her heartache over her father's desertion; and when Miss Millie tells her family story, Alice begins to understand the shameful history of Segregation, and recognize the racism they need to fight against. Navigating the neighborhood with Miss Millie gives Alice new perspective, the wisdom to move on from her anger, and even enables her to laugh again.

Tamara Bundy's beautifully written story reminds readers that there is nothing like friendship to lighten one's load and make anyplace a home.

**11 Birthdays**, by Wendy Mass

Peculiar things begin to happen when Amanda and Leo plan to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately after celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together.

**Bob**, by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead

Ten-year-old Livy has not visited her grandmother in Australia in five years, and when she returns, she gets the feeling she forgot something from her last visit. She then meets a small green creature named Bob, who reminds Livy that she promised to help him get home, and he has been waiting for her ever since.

***The Boggart***, by Susan Cooper

After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning home to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

***Gregor the Overlander***, by Suzanne Collins

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.

***Grump***, by Liesl Shurtliff

Borlen (nicknamed "Grump") has always dreamed of visiting the Surface, so when the opportunity to leave the dwarf caverns arises, he jumps at the chance. He befriends Queen Elfrida, who feeds him all the rubies he can eat and allows him to rule at her side in exchange for magic and information. But when Elfrida commands him to do something horrible to her stepdaughter, Snow White, Grump finds himself in a lot of trouble. He is bound by magic to obey the queen, but also to protect Snow White. Grump will have to find a way out of his predicament and do the right thing.

***Island of the Aunts***, by Eva Ibbotson

As they get older, several sisters decide that they must kidnap children and bring them to their secluded island home to help with the work of caring for an assortment of unusual sea creatures.

***The Lost Years of Merlin***, by T.A. Barron

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

***The One and Only Ivan***, by Katherine Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

***Redwall Series***, by Brian Jacques

An epic saga by an expert in the animal fantasy genre. In this first volume, the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes. Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

***Secrets of Droon series***, by Tony Abbott

Eric and his friends find entry into the mysterious world of Droon by using a staircase in Eric's basement. What fate awaits them there? The first volume in the series is, *The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet*.

***The Wishing Spell***, by Chris Colfer

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters, they grew up reading about.

***The Door to Time***, by Pierdomenico Baccalario

After moving from London to an old mansion on the English coast, eleven-year-old twins Jason and Julia discover that their new home has twisting tunnels, strange artifacts from around the world, and a mysterious, locked door. This is the first book in the series, *Ulysses Moore*.

***Wait Till Helen Comes: A Ghost Story***, by Mary Downing Hahn

Molly and Michael dislike their spooky new stepsister Heather but realize that they must try to save her when she seems ready to follow a ghost child to her doom.

***The Eyes of the Amaryllis***, by Natalie Babbitt

The ship *Amaryllis* sinks in a hurricane, but for 30 years the captain's widow waits for him to send her a message from the bottom of the sea. With her granddaughter waiting with her, the story reveals that the line between reality and imagination is indefinable.

***Who Was That Masked Man Anyway?***

When everyone else is thinking about fighting World War II, sixth-grader Frankie Wattleson gets in trouble at home and at school because of his preoccupation with his favorite adventure programs on the radio.

***The 1,000-Year-Old Boy***, by Ross Welford

*A heart stopping, poignant, epic adventure story about a boy destined to live forever, who only wants to grow up. Without death, life is just existence. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live forever? Well, Alfie Monk can tell you. He may seem like an ordinary eleven-year-old boy, but he is more than a thousand years old—and remembers the last Viking invasion of England, not to mention the French Revolution and both World Wars. Way back in the tenth century, he and his mother were given the alchemical secret to eternal life. But when everything Alfie knows is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world intrudes, he must embark on a mission—along with friends Aidan and Roxy—to find a way to reverse the process and grow up like a regular boy. This astonishing new novel from the author of *Time Traveling with a Hamster*, told in alternating perspectives by Alfie and Aidan, is a tour de force—a sweeping epic that takes you on an unforgettable, breathtaking adventure and asks big questions about the meaning of life.*

***Jason's Gold***, by Will Hobbs

In 1897, fifteen-year-old Jason embarks on a ten-thousand-mile journey in hopes of striking it rich after hearing the news that gold has been discovered in Canada's Yukon Territory. This book has a sequel, *Down the Yukon*.

***Maze of Bones*** (39 Clues Series, book #1), by Rick Riordan

When their beloved Aunt Grace dies, Dan, 11, and Amy, 14—along with other Cahill descendants — are faced with an unusual choice: inherit one million dollars or participate in a perilous treasure hunt. Cahills have steered the course of history for centuries and this quest's outcome will bring the victors unimaginable power and affect all of humankind.

***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***, by Roald Dahl

Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

***The Great Brain***, by John D. Fitzgerald

The exploits of the Great Brain of Adenville, Utah, are described by his younger brother, frequently the victim of the Great Brain's schemes for gaining prestige or money.

***Hank Zipzer Series***, by Henry Winkler

The first book in the Hank Zipzer series is *Niagara Falls, Or Does It?* However, the series has been restarted more recently with *The Crazy Classroom Cascade*. The series focuses on the antics of Hank, the "world's greatest underachiever" who suffers from dyslexia. It is based on the real life of Henry Winkler.

***Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key***, by Jack Gantos

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

***Knights of the Kitchen Table***, by Jon Scieszka

One minute they are looking at pictures of knights in the book, a birthday gift from Joe's magician uncle, the next minute they are battling fire-breathing dragons and a foul-smelling giant in King Arthur's Britain. Will Joe, Fred, and Sam escape death from these only to die at the hands of a fearsome Black Knight?

***Skinnybones***, by Barbara Park

Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world.

***Zack Files Series*** by Dan Greenburg

The Zack Files contains 30 books, each of which is a humorous take on the main character, Zack, dealing with a supernatural issue. The first book, *Great-Grandpa's in the Litter Box*, focuses on what happens when Zack gets a talking cat from the animal shelter which claims to be his great grandpa. The series does not need to be read in order, but it may help with minor details from one book to the next.

***Additional Novel suggestions taken from Orchard Park Middle School in New York***

