

Entering 7th Grade (6th to 7th) Summer Reading

Checklist At a Glance:

- ☐ **Read the Required text *Auggie and Me*** by R.J. Palacio *Students are required to read *The Julian Chapter* but may also be interested in the *Pluto* or *Shingaling* chapters
- ☐ **Complete the provided [writing discussion guide](#)** (PDF linked, found on website and uploaded to Google Classroom in last year's ELA class folder). Students may type into the Google doc version, create their own document or print out and write in the guide.
- ☐ **AND/OR create an artifact** (artifact could be in the form of an essay, visual representation, series of poems, recorded film, music score, or presentation)
- ☐ **Students should then read a second text of their choosing**

Reminder: Students who attend AIM's Summer program **DO NOT** have to complete their summer reading or math packets.

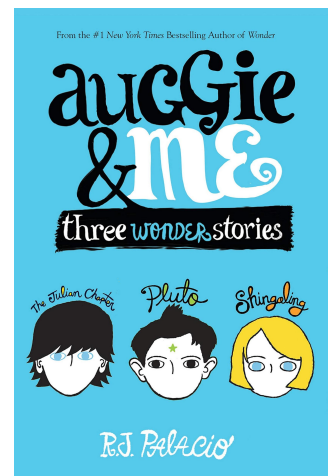
First day of school:

Students should come to the first day of school with the **completed writing guide** and/or a **completed artifact** representative of the required text *Auggie and Me* by R.J. Palacio (The Julian Chapter). Finally, students should be ready to discuss the texts that they read over the summer. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Mrs. Mellon over the summer. We look forward to collaborating to support your student's reading and writing success.

Required Reading: *Auggie and Me* by R.J. Palacio*The Julian Chapter

Over 2 million people have read the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Wonder* and have fallen in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. Readers have also been treated to three stories offering a special look at Auggie's world through new points of view. These stories are an extra peek at Auggie before he started at Beecher Prep and during his first year there. Readers get to see him through the eyes of Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie's oldest friend; and Charlotte, Auggie's new friend at school. Together, these three stories are a treasure for readers who don't want to leave Auggie behind when they finish *Wonder*.

*Students are required to read *The Julian Chapter* but may also be interested in the *Pluto* or *Shingaling* chapters



We thank you in advance for your support with this important endeavor and hope that you and your student have a wonderful time enjoying many great books together this summer.

Summer Reading Rationale:

While some students read voraciously over the summer, other students are more recalcitrant. With that said, research points to the importance of reading everyday for student success. We have also found that students who read prodigiously over the summer do not show the same regression in their reading skills learned over the course of the school year. Quite simply, summer reading is important and is a crucial component of the English Language Arts curriculum.

That said, the following summer reading selections support the Middle School's English Language Arts curriculum and were specifically chosen to capitalize on topics and themes explored throughout the school year. The books on this list connect to the enduring understandings for each grade level and many selections build upon familiar stories and characters students read about during the school year. Thus, learners continue to build background knowledge and make connections to the topics and themes they learned about. Research shows that background knowledge is essential for reading comprehension as the more one knows about a topic, the easier it is to read a text, understand it, and retain the information. Building meaningful background knowledge on a topic or subject also increases reading comprehension by enabling students to make meaningful connections to what they are reading.

Additionally, each text has a corresponding discussion and writing guide which features questions that can be used to talk about the book at home. Reading comprehension improves as students read about and discuss events, characters, and motivations. They learn to predict what will happen next as well as increase their vocabulary knowledge and build syntactic awareness. Similar to the reading slide and decline seen over the summer, the same is also true about writing. The provided writing questions for each chapter are meant as a way to continue to work on writing in context. As opposed to writing one book report after reading the text, the shorter writing practice for each chapter gives students the opportunity to continue to work on writing skills learned during the school year much like keeping your stamina and form by running every day.

Teacherly Hints:

If possible, get two copies of the summer reading text so that you can read through it together. If amendable and not the cause of great tension, having the student read the text out loud has greater benefit for fluency. You can even try trading off reading every other page.

Routines are often helpful during the summer for continuing reading and writing skills. Set a specific time for reading everyday. It can also be helpful to start that routine immediately in June after school lets out for the summer.

Continued writing practice often gets overlooked during the summer but is of equal if not greater importance. The writing guides created for each text can help support this endeavor. While the guides were made with lines for handwritten responses, students may choose to type or dictate their responses for equal benefit. Other ways to incorporate daily writing is through letter writing to distant relations or on trips. Some people find creating summer journals to record the day's events or to use general writing prompts can also help maintain consistent writing habits.

Building vast background knowledge has huge benefits for comprehension not only in English Language Arts but in other disciplines as well. You can have students read short articles from appropriate informational magazines and newspapers. Furthermore websites like NewsELA rewrite news stories for different lexile or reading levels.