

Dear Parents,

This letter comes to you regarding the eighth-grade summer reading program. Over the past several years the eighth-grade literature class used several novels as opposed to only reading the literature text. This approach was well accepted by our students. We feel this better prepares the students for the types of programs they will encounter in high school.

In order to get a head start on the year, we are assigning the reading of a specific novel over the summer. The book lends itself to several literary techniques and skills that are part of our curriculum. The book can be purchased in any bookstore and can also be found at the public library.

The book is:

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

The reading assignment will be tested and used in the first trimester.

In addition to reading the book, a set of questions attached to this letter. The completion of these questions is not mandatory; however, it is in the interest of each student to work on the packet as it will benefit in preparation for the test on the book. We will be reviewing these questions at the start of the school year.

Thank you,

The Eighth Grade Teachers

Wonder Questions p. 3-23

1. Why do people look quickly away when they first see August?
2. In this section Auggie discusses the issue of him never going to school. Why has he never gone to school? Do you think he should?

Wonder Questions p. 24 - 42

3. August goes on the tour of the school and meets three students. In your opinion which one would turn out to be a bully?
4. How would you describe the other students' reaction to August in homeroom?

Wonder Questions p. 42 - 60

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

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

Wonder Questions p. 61 - 80

7. Why is Halloween a positive thing for August?

8. What were Jack and Julian talking about?

Wonder Questions p. 81 -99

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

10. Did Via have a good first day of high school?

Wonder Questions p. 100 - 117

11. Who is Miranda and why did she call?

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

Wonder Questions p. 118 - 132

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

14. Do you think Summer thinks Jack is a good friend?

Wonder Questions p. 133 - 150

15. 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?

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

Wonder Questions p. 151 - 185

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

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

Wonder Questions p. 186 - 204

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

20. 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?

Wonder Questions p. 205 - 234

21. 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?

22. Daisy is August's dog, who has been sick for awhile. Why hasn't

August noticed this?

Wonder Questions p. 235 - 238

23. Miranda and Via used to be good friends. Why did their relationship change? What does Miranda miss about having Via as a friend?

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

Wonder Questions p. 250 to 270

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

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

Wonder Questions p. 271 to 309

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

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

29. 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?

30. Mr. Tushman says "Always try to be a little kinder than necessary."
What does that mean to you? In your opinion what character shows this the best?