

SUMMER 2016



## RIISING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS READING

Dear Rising Sixth Grader,

You've made it to middle school! Congratulations on this milestone. We look forward to having you in our classes in August. As you enjoy your summer we want you to keep your brain in tip top shape. Studies show if you don't read you lose three months of learning during the summer. We don't want that because sixth grade is PACKED with new things and we want to begin on grade level.

This summer, you will be reading Wonder by R.J. Palacio and two other books of your choice from the categories below. As you read through Wonder, look over the discussion questions on the back of this page. You will choose 4 questions from the list to answer. When you answer make sure your answer is complete, that you have evidence from the text and you write down the page number that you are quoting to support your answer.

Your other choices should be a book with at least 150 pages and on at least a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. You must choose a book from two different genres, listed below. After you read your books list the title, author, and which genre it fits.

Poetry, Historical Fiction, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Mystery, Biography/Autobiography, or Non-fiction

This assignment will be due upon your return to school.

Sincerely,

Sixth grade teacher ☺

1. What qualities does Auggie's family have that help support him as he struggles to fit in at school?
2. Do you think Auggie ultimately sees himself as ordinary, or extraordinary? Do other people in his life think about this differently?
3. How about his parents? How about Via? How do his friends at school think of him? How about his teachers?
4. Why all the narrators? Why does R.J. Palacio include so many different points of view? What do we learn from different narrators that we wouldn't get from Auggie? Who is your favorite narrator, and why?
5. What role do masks play throughout the story? How do masks help or hurt Auggie?
6. What's the difference between kindness and just being nice, and why does it matter?
7. What does Jack learn through his friendship and betrayal of Auggie?
8. Which characters do you think change the most from the beginning to the end of the story, and why do you think so?
9. How does Auggie overcome his crippling shyness and self-loathing? By the end of the story, do you think he is comfortable with how he looks? Which characters help him with this, and how?