

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School
2019 Middle School English Language Arts
Summer Reading Assignment**

Book Requirements

The purpose of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional English Language Arts Summer Reading Assignment is to encourage and to instill a love of reading. For this reason, **all students entering grades 6, 7, and 8 are to read two books before returning to school in the fall:** One of the books has been assigned, and the student is allowed to choose the second book. The following texts have been assigned to each grade:

- Students entering grade 6: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- Students entering grade 7: *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi
- Students entering grade 8: *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson

In regards to the book the student is allowed to select on his/her own, it is important to note that the book:

- Must be approved by the parent/guardian.
- Must be at the student's reading level.
- Must be one that the student has never read before on his/her own or in class.

Attached is a list of the Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2020 Nominees that you may want to consider when choosing a book.

Summer Reading Assignment Guidelines

Book #1 – The Assigned Text

1. Read the book that was assigned for your grade.
2. Answer the attached study guide questions. Answer all questions in complete sentences, and include details from the book to support your answer.

Book #2 – Student's Choice

1. Read the book you have chosen for your summer reading selection.
2. Fill in the "Summer Reading Graphic Organizer" as it relates to your summer reading selection.
3. Choose one prompt from the "Middle School Summer Reading Response Directions," and write a one-to-three paragraph constructed response based on your summer reading selection. (A graphic organizer is attached to help you draft your constructed response.)

This assignment is due Thursday, August 29, 2019.

Grade 6 Summer Reading Assignment – Assigned Text

Wonder

By: R.J. Palacio

Directions: After reading each Part, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use details from the book to support your answers.

Part One

“Ordinary” – through – “The Performance Space” (pages 1-40)

1. The setting of a book includes both the location of the story and the time period when it takes place. What is the setting of this book?
2. In the first chapter we read, “The only reason I’m not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way.” Tell who is talking and explain the meaning of this statement in a short paragraph, using examples from the story.
3. Describe one thing that happened to August that you think would be especially difficult to experience.

“Around the Room” – through “Names” (pages 41-80)

4. When we talk about how an author tells a story, we are referring to point of view. There are three main ways that an author can choose to tell a story.
 1. Sometimes an author uses the first person point of view to tell the story. Here, the story is told by one of the characters in the story, and the pronoun *I* is used by the storyteller as he/she tells the story.
 2. Once in a while an author uses the second person point of view. Second person refers to the fact that someone who is not actually a character in the story is being told the story. The narrator uses the word *you* as the story is told to that person.
 3. Often an author tells a story in the third person point of view, which means that the story is being told by a narrator who tells the reader what the characters are thinking, feeling, and doing. This is probably the most common point of view.

Question: What point of view does R.J. Palacio use to tell this story?

5. How did you decide that? Use examples from the book to support your opinion.
6. On the first day of school, Ms. Petosa asked each student to share “two things you want other people to know about you.” What things did August share, and why do you think he chose those?
7. What questions did Julian ask August, and why did Auggie want to “slide under the desk”? Why do you think Julian asked those questions?
8. Mr. Browne was August’s English teacher. He introduced a new precept to the class each month, and each student was to write that month’s precept in his/her notebook. Writing down the first precept made August realize “that I was going to like school. No matter what.” Why do you think August feels that way? Explain.
9. In the chapter “One to Ten,” August is feeling mad at his mother but he’s not sure why. Reread that section of the story; then, put yourself in his shoes, and see if you can figure out why he is mad. Explain your thoughts.

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10. For Halloween, August has planned to dress as Boba Fett, but at the last minute, he decided to wear his old Bleeding Scream costume. Explain how this decision ended up effecting August.

**Part Two: “Via”
Pages 81-117**

11. How is the point of view in Part Two different from what you found in Part One?
 12. A simile is a writing craft that uses either the word *like* or *as* to compare two different things in order to provide better understanding. Locate each of the following similes in the reading and read the sentences surrounding it to help you better understand the context. Then, complete the chart below with your interpretation. The first one is done for you as an example.

Simile	Page	Interpretation
“And suddenly there I was, like all those people who would stare or look away.”	86	Via realized that after being away from August, she was now shocked to see his appearance, and she couldn't help but be repulsed by what she saw.
“...I held on to that secret and let it cover me like a blanket.”	87	
“...his features look like they've been melted, like the drippings on the side of a candle.”	88	
“...we circle around him like he's still the baby he used to be.”	90	

13. Like a simile, a metaphor is a comparison between two things; however, a metaphor does not use either *like* or *as* to compare those things. Instead, a metaphor says one thing is another thing. Study the example below, and complete the chart.

Metaphor	Page	Interpretation
“August is the sun.”	82	August is the center of attention just like the sun is the center of the universe.

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“Me and Mom and Dad are planets orbiting the sun.”	82	
“...family and friends are asteroids and comets...”	82	

14. In Part One, Auggie described what his first Halloween at school was like (pages 73-80). In Part Two, Via talked about the same Halloween in the chapters called “October 31” and “Trick or Treat” (pages 109-117). Even though it was the same topic, the information given by Via was not always the same as that given by Auggie. Review the two selections before responding to the questions that follow.
- What details did you learn from Via that you did not already know about from reading Auggie’s description? List at least three.
 - What details did you learn from Auggie that Via did not tell you about? List at least three.
15. As you read Part Two, you learn a lot about what it would be like to live with a sibling like August. In what ways did having August for a brother effect Via’s life? Include examples from the text? How do you think it would change your life if August was your brother? Write your responses in two separate paragraphs.

**Part Three: “Summer” – through – Part Four: “Season’s Greetings”
(pages 118-159)**

- Describe Summer’s reaction when she learned that Julian liked her and wanted to talk to her.
- Describe Jack’s initial reaction to Mr. Tushman’s request that he help out with the new student.
- What made Jack decide to say “yes” to Mr. Tushman’s request?
- Jack found and fixed up a sled which he proudly named *Lightning*. Describe what Jack later learned about this sled, and how his feelings towards it changed.

Part Four: “Letter, Emails...” – through – Part Five: “The Universe” (pages 160-204)

- When we read, we understand and picture what we are reading more easily if we can find some similarities between what is happening in the story and what has happened in our own life. This is called “making connections.” Describe one connection that you have made between something that has happened in the book so far with something in your own life.
- Mrs. Albans (Julian’s mother) and Mr. Tushman expressed different opinions on whether or not August should be attending Beecher Prep. Carefully review the letters written by them (and you may use any other helpful information from the book), and then summarize their opinions.

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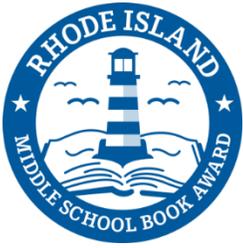
22. In the chapter called “Rehearsal,” Miranda asked Justin, “So, you’re okay with it?” Justin looked at her and wondered what she meant. What do you think she meant by that question?
23. In the chapter titled “Bird,” Via states that she is “an awful person.” Why do you think she feels that way?
24. The chapter called “Valentine’s Day” ends with Justin telling us that by the time he went home, “my tics have all stopped.” What are tics, and why do you think they have stopped?
25. In what ways is Part Five different from other Parts in the book?

Part Six and Part Seven Pages 205-248

26. Good readers need to stop and clarify when they read expressions that are new or unusual. Below are some interesting expressions and statements found in Parts Six and Seven. Look at the context where each one is found and think about what the expression or statement means. Then, in your own words, explain its meaning.
 - a. “All those eyes are compasses, and I’m like the North Pole to them.” Page 206
 - b. “I guess it’s true that like seeks like, said Mom.” Page 207
 - c. “I think there should be a rule that everyone in the world should get a standing ovation at least once in their lives.” Page 231
 - d. “That, I admit, was a little bittersweet for me.” Page 246

Part Eight and Appendix Pages 249 – End

27. Authors write books for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it is to try to teach (or inform) the reader about something, sometimes the purpose is to entertain the reader, and sometimes it is to persuade (or convince) the reader. As you read this last section of the book, think about why R.J. Palacio wrote this book. Explain your opinion, and use examples from the story to support your answer.
28. Why do you think Palacio gave this book the title of *Wonder*? Where did it come from? What does it mean? Does it in some way reinforce Palacio’s purpose for writing?
29. Pretend that you are one of Mr. Browne’s students, and write the precept you would send to him.



Rhode Island Middle School Book Award 2020 Nominees

*Please remember not all books
are suitable for all readers*

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed*

In modern-day Pakistan, Amal must fight to regain her freedom and dreams after she is forced into indentured servitude. Realistic Fiction.

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol

Vera is excited to attend sleepaway camp just for Russian kids like her. But when camp ends up being tougher than she imagined, Vera isn't sure she will survive a whole summer of bugs bites and bullying bunkmates. Memoir/Graphic Novel.

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

Zoey knows life would be easier if she were an octopus. When a teacher sees through her camouflage, Zoey starts to wonder if maybe she can change her life. Can she gather the courage to make that decision, if the cost is leaving the only safe place her family knows? Realistic Fiction.

Bone Jack by Sara Crowe

Ash Tyler is dealing with a lot, between his father's return home from war with PTSD and his ex-best friend's increasingly strange and violent behavior. When Ash is chosen to compete in the annual Stag Chase he hopes to turn things around for his family – he just has to survive the chase. Fantasy.

City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab

Since she almost drowned, Cass has gained two things: the ability pull back the 'veil' separating the living and the dead and a new best friend, Jacob - who happens to be a ghost. Any hopes for a normal summer are dashed when Cass and her parents go Scotland to investigate the world's most haunted places. As it turns out, Cass's ghostly problems have only just begun. Horror/Suspense.

Drum Roll, Please by Lisa Jenn Bigelow

Melly should be having a glorious summer at Camp Rockaway, but it's tough dealing with her parents' divorce, her best friend ditching her, a new crush on a girl named Adeline, and a fear she doesn't have what it takes to be a real rock 'n' roll drummer. Quiet Melly needs to find her voice, get loud, and be heard. Realistic Fiction.

Echo's Sister by Paul Mosier

El's plans for a fantastic year at her new school are derailed when her sister is diagnosed with cancer. As the family struggles to meet everyone's needs they learn the true value of community. Realistic Fiction.

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora by Pablo Cartaya*

Can Arturo save his family's Cuban restaurant and Miami neighborhood from a flashy (and wealthy) developer? Will he get the girl? Or is it all just an epic fail? Realistic Fiction.

Estranged by Ethan M. Aldridge

Edmund is not a normal teen boy - he is a changeling, a faerie swapped with a human baby, hiding his powers in our world. The Childe is his double, raised as a curiosity among the faeries. When an evil sorceress takes the throne, Childe is forced into the human world, where he and Edmund must team up to find where they belong and save the fae from ruin. Fantasy/Graphic Novel.

Game Changer by Tommy Greenwald

Teddy Youngblood gets injured and falls into a coma after football practice. Teddy's family, friends, and community wants to know if it was just an accident - or was it done on purpose? Readers are able to follow along with the characters as they unravel the mystery of what really happened on that fateful day. Realistic Fiction.

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes*

Jerome was shot and killed by a police officer, who claimed it was an act of self-defense. As time passes between life and death, Jerome bears witness to the events around his killing, relying on the stories of those who have gone before him to make sense of the tragedy. A devastating tale of history repeating itself. Realistic Fiction.

Greetings from Witness Protection! by Jake Burt*

In this funny, action packed page-turner, foster child Nicki Demere is recruited by the US Marshals to help a family in witness protection hide in plain sight. Realistic Fiction.

How We Roll by Natasha Friend

Ninth grader, Quinn, is happy to start at a new school. She hides the fact that she is bald from a medical condition and makes friends with the cool girls, but finds herself drawn to one of her new friend's exes, Nick, whose legs were amputated after a car crash. Realistic Fiction.

Illegal by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin

This graphic novel tells the story of Ebo, an orphan from Ghana, who follows his older brother to seek asylum in Europe. Their epic journey alternates between present and past as it depicts the brutal journey of asylum seekers across the Mediterranean. Realistic Fiction/Graphic Novel.

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling*

Aven was born without arms, a fact that's only the second-most interesting thing about her. The first is the fact that she and her parents just became the caretakers of an Old West amusement park where new friends – and a mystery – await her. Realistic Fiction.

Lifeboat 12 by Susan Hood

Kenneth is one of many children evacuated from London to escape the Blitz during WWII. But when the ship that was supposed to take them to Canada is wrecked, the children find themselves in a fight for survival they never imagined. This story is based on true events. Novel in Verse.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson*

When Candice and her neighbor, Brandon, discover a mysterious letter in her grandmother's attic they must use clues to discover a hidden fortune - and uncover injustices from their city's past. Mystery.

Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

Ollie finds herself in possession a mysterious book after she snatches it from an odd woman crying by the river. The book warns her to 'Avoid large spaces. Keep to small.' Little does she know that these words will guide her on a twisted, hair-raising adventure after a field trip gone wrong threatens the lives of herself and her classmates. Horror/Suspense.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor*

Mason Buttle has always been a bit of an outcast, but after his best friend was killed in Mason's own backyard, life has gone from bad to worse. With the odds stacked against him, Mason will have to fight back against a suspicious town with the only weapon he has: the truth. Realistic Fiction.

A World Below by Wesley King

A ho-hum school field trip to the Carlsbad Caverns becomes a race to survive when an earthquake hits and separates the class underground. As the students look for a way out, they encounter dangers and a hidden kingdom in the world below. Action and Adventure.

****Audiobook Recommended***

For more information about the award, please visit

RI Middle School Book Award Home Page

<http://bit.ly/2ofCGOE>



Middle School Summer Reading Constructed Response Graphic Organizer

RACES

<p><u>R</u>estate the question in your own words.</p>	
<p><u>A</u>nsWER all parts correctly and clearly using complete sentences.</p>	
<p><u>C</u>ite evidence for your answer with information that comes directly from the text.</p>	
<p><u>E</u>xplain how each piece of evidence supports your answer.</p>	
<p><u>S</u>ummary statement.</p>	

Middle School Summer Reading Constructed Response Directions

Your summer reading falls into one of two basic categories: informational (non-fiction) or literary text (fiction). After determining the type of text you read, examine the writing prompts in the correct box below. Choose one prompt from the options and write a one-to-three paragraph response (constructed response) based on your summer reading selection.

Informational Text (Non-Fiction)

Choose one.

- Identify and explain the author’s purpose or attitude toward the main topic of your book. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- A journey may be physical, spiritual, or emotional. Describe the journey of the person throughout the book. In the end, what did the person learn about himself/herself and the world? Use details from the book to support your answer.
- Readers learn valuable information from informational texts. Identify the author’s main points and explain how this information affected your understanding of the topic. Use details from the book to support your answer.

Literary Text (Fiction)

Choose one.

- Identify and explain the author’s purpose or attitude toward the main topic of your book. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- Describe how the main character’s attitude changed over time. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- The climax of a literary text is often referred to as “the point of no return.” At the climax, the protagonist (main character) makes a decision that determines whether or not he/she will achieve his/her goal. Identify the climax of your book, and explain how the rising action leads to the climax. Use details from the book to support your answer.
- A journey may be physical, spiritual, or emotional. Describe the journey of the character throughout the book. In the end, what did the character learn about himself/herself and the world? Use details from the book to support your answer.
- Describe the setting and analyze its importance in the book you read. Use details from the book to support your answer.

Summer Reading Graphic Organizer – Student-Selected Text
 Complete this graphic organizer, using citations where appropriate.

Student Name	
Title	
Author	
Genre	
Setting: Be sure to include the location <i>and</i> the time period!	
<p>Point of View: How an author tells a story - There are <u>three main ways</u> that an author can choose to tell a story.</p> <p>First Person: The story is told by one of the characters in the story, and the pronoun <i>I</i> is used by the storyteller as he/she tells the story.</p> <p>Second Person: Someone who is not actually a character in the story is being told the story. The narrator uses the word <i>you</i> as the story is told to that person.</p> <p>Third Person: The story is being told by a narrator who tells the reader what the characters are thinking, feeling, and doing. This is probably the most common point of view.</p>	
<p>Plot or Events</p> <p>Exposition: The introduction, or beginning of the story, where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well.</p> <p>Rising Action: A series of events build up to the conflict; these events begin to get complicated. It is during this part of a story that excitement, tension, or crisis is encountered.</p> <p>Climax: The main point of the plot. This is the turning point of the story, and is meant to be the point of highest interest and emotion.</p> <p>Falling Action: Events and complications begin to resolve, and the result of actions of the main characters are put forward.</p> <p>Resolution: The end of the story.</p>	

Major Characters or People	
Themes: The general ideas or meanings of a literary work.	
Key Issues/Lessons/Morals	
<p>Important Quotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Select from the beginning, middle, and end portion of the book.- Include page numbers.	<p>Beginning:</p> <p>Middle:</p> <p>End:</p>