

June 4, 2026

Hello and Welcome to 5th Grade!

I hope you are having a great summer so far and enjoying your time off! Please take time to carefully read the directions for each assignment and print the summer reading and grammar assignments below. If you are unable to access these documents, please email Mrs. Tomasetti and/or Mrs. Callahan as soon as possible. All assignments are due Tuesday, September 1st.

For summer reading, students will read the book *Wonders* by R.J. Palacio and write a 3 paragraph essay on the prompt below. During the second week of school, students will take a *Wonders* test.

For grammar and math review, it is recommended that students complete 2 pages each week (2 lessons in their mathbook and 2 pages in their grammar packet). This will help reinforce skills learned during the year and ensure students are prepared for the new school year. Staying consistent over the summer will help maintain learning throughout the 11 weeks.

List of Assignments:

- ☐ Read the book *Wonders* by R.J. Palacio and write 3 paragraph essay (cursive rough draft, then typed)
- ☐ Grammar packet - 15 pages (this was handed out at the end of the year)
- ☐ Lessons 125-140 in Simple Solutions book

Looking forward to a fun and exciting 5th grade year!

Sincerely,

Ms. McDermott



Summer Reading for Incoming 5th Grade

Directions: Read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Students will take a comprehension test during the second week of school on the story.

Essay Portion: Answer the following prompt in a well-thought-out answer with details to support your answers (in 3 paragraphs). Your response must be **typed** and must include an introduction, body, and conclusion with an MLA heading and format (Times New Roman font, size 12, and double spaced).

PROMPT: Throughout the story, several characters learn more about who they are. What do you think the book teaches about identity? Is a person defined by their choices, how they treat others, their experiences, or something else? Use specific examples from the story to explain your answer.

- ☐ Paragraph 1: Introduction of the book, short summary of characters and their perspectives/view of the world (4 or more sentences)
- ☐ Paragraph 2: What does the book teach about identity? Is a person defined by their choices, how they treat others, their experiences or something else? (In 5-8 or more sentences)
- ☐ Paragraph 3: Conclusion to answer the prompt and summarize your essay (4 or more sentences)

Students are required to complete a handwritten rough draft on loose-leaf paper before typing their final draft. Both the rough draft and the typed final draft (printed and ready to submit) must be turned in on the due date of September 1st.

- **SEE RUBRIC BELOW FOR SCORING GUIDELINES**

Summer Reading Writing Rubric

Category	20 — Excellent	18 — Proficient	16 — Developing	14 — Beginning
Main Idea / Central Idea	Presents a clear, specific, and arguable central idea about identity in the book. The claim goes beyond stating the obvious.	The main/central idea is present and addresses identity, but may be vague or somewhat predictable.	The main idea/central idea is unclear, too broad, or simply restates the prompt without taking a real position.	No identifiable central idea. Response does not address identity.
Use of Text Evidence	Includes 2+ specific, well-chosen moments from the book. Evidence is clearly connected to the argument.	Includes at least two specific moments from the book. Connection to the argument is present, but could be stronger.	Evidence is vague, summarizes the plot without connecting to the argument, or is limited to one weak example.	No text evidence, or the evidence is inaccurate.
Analysis & Interpretation	Explains how and why the evidence supports the question. Shows original thinking about what the book means.	Some analysis is present, but it relies more on summary than interpretation.	Mostly summarizes the book. Little attempt to explain what the evidence means.	No analysis. Response retells the plot only.
Organization & Clarity	Writing is well-organized with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Ideas flow logically.	Organization is mostly clear, though transitions may be weak or the conclusion underdeveloped.	The organization is hard to follow. Ideas jump around or lack a clear structure.	No clear organization. Difficult to follow.
Writing Conventions/ MLA Format	Few or no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation. Writing is polished. Heading, title, font, spacing, and margins all follow MLA guidelines. (Name, Assignment Name, Date, Title, Times New Roman font, size 12, double spaced)	Some errors, but they do not interfere with understanding. Most MLA requirements are met with only minor errors (e.g. spacing or heading slightly off).	Frequent errors that occasionally distract from the meaning. Some MLA elements are present but several requirements are missing or incorrect.	Numerous errors make the writing difficult to understand. Little to no attempt to follow MLA format.

Comments:

Total Score: _____ / 100