Dear Rising Fifth Graders and Parents,

Summer is our favorite time of year to read! Most of you already enjoy reading and eagerly share your enthusiasm for specific books with friends and family. We’d like for this enthusiasm and love of reading to continue during the summer and into your 5th grade year.

The summer reading requirement for rising 5th graders at Summit is to read at least three books. Students must also complete a reading log for these selections as well as create answers to discussion questions related to the grade wide read. The grade wide read for all rising 5th grade students will be *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. A second book needs to be an age-appropriate Newbery Medal or Honor book. Finally, the third book may be either a fiction or non-fiction selection of your choosing. For suggestions, please refer to the 4th-6th grade book selection Wiki, [http://summitreaders4-6.wikispaces.com/](http://summitreaders4-6.wikispaces.com/). Here, you may search by grade level, genre, or subject matter to find a book that is just right for you.

Upon returning to school in August, you will be asked to turn in the reading log and *Wonder* discussion questions. We have attached to this letter both a copy of the reading log as well as the discussion questions for *Wonder* that we would like you to think about and answer while reading the novel. We will do a number of in-class assignments with your summer reading selections during the first few weeks of your 5th grade year.

Have a safe and relaxing summer and happy reading!

The Fifth Grade Team
Wonder Summer Reading Discussion Questions
Adapted from Author R.J. Palacio’s Website Discussion Questions

1. Throughout Wonder, Auggie describes the way that many people react to seeing his face for the first time: by immediately looking away. Have you ever been in a situation where you have responded like this to seeing someone different? Having now read Wonder, how do you feel about this now?

2. Auggie’s face is not fully described until quite far on in the story, in Via’s chapter ‘August: Through the Peephole’. How close was this description to your own mental picture of Auggie? Did you have a picture of his face in your mind while reading the book? Did this description alter that picture?

3. How would you describe Auggie as a person in the first few chapters of the book? What about the final few chapters? Has he changed significantly? Are there any experiences or episodes during the story that you think had a particular effect on him? If so, how?

4. In the chapter ‘Costumes’ Auggie describes the astronaut helmet that he wore constantly as a younger child. We later learn that Miranda was the one to give Auggie the helmet, and is proud of the gift, but that it was Auggie’s father who threw it away. What do you think the helmet signifies to each of these characters and why do you think they all view it so differently?

5. Star Wars is one of Auggie’s passions. Why do you think this is? Do you see any reasons for Auggie to identify with these characters, or to aspire to be like them?

6. Auggie’s parents bring Auggie around to the idea of attending school by joking with him about Mr Tushman’s name, and telling him about their old college professor. To what extent is humour used as a tool throughout Wonder to diffuse difficult or tense situations, or to convey a part of the story that would otherwise be depressing or sad? (Hint: Look at the chapter ‘How I Came To Life’.)

7. What did you think of Via as a character? Did you empathise with her? Why do you think Via was so angry to learn that Auggie cut off his Padawan braid? Do you think Via’s own attitude towards her brother changes throughout the story?

8. Look at the emails between Mr Tushman, Julian’s parents and Jack’s parents in the chapter ‘Letters, Emails, Facebook, Texts’. Up to this point in the story we have seen how the children at Auggie’s school have reacted to him. Is Mrs Albans’ attitude towards Auggie different? What do you make of her statement that Auggie is handicapped? Do you think she is correct in saying that asking ‘ordinary’ children, such as Julian, to befriend Auggie places a burden on them?

9. The author has explained that she was inspired to write Wonder after an experience at a local ice cream parlour, very similar to the scene described in the chapter ‘Carvel’, where Jack sees Auggie for the first time. In this scene, Jack’s babysitter Veronica chooses to get up and quickly walk Jack and his little brother Jamie away from Auggie, rather than risk Jamie saying something rude or hurtful. What do you think you would have done, if put in that position?
Summer Reading Log for ________________________________

Minimum Requirement: 3 Books
Return your reading log to your homeroom teacher when school starts in August.

Title ________________________________________________________________

Author __________________________________ Number of pages _______ Date __________

In complete sentences, tell me one thing about the characters, setting or plot of your book selection.

Adult Signature ____________________________________________________

Title ________________________________________________________________

Author __________________________________ Number of pages _______ Date __________

In complete sentences, tell me one thing about the characters, setting or plot of your book selection.

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