



Dear Parent/ Guardian of 2016-2017 5th grader:

Participating in sports and other outdoor activities in the summer is a wonderful way to support our physical health. Reading is an enjoyable way to exercise our minds and summer reading is important for middle school students. It helps foster a lifelong love of reading and helps students maintain the gains in reading comprehension skills they made in school. For this reason, we require all incoming middle school students to read a book over the summer. As the 4th graders move into middle school, we believe having most students read the same book helps to unify the students through shared experience.

As a result, the fifth grade teachers have selected Wonder as the summer reading book selection for incoming fifth graders for the summer of 2016. Please see the back of this letter for a brief summary of the book and sign below that you approve this book for your child. Please note that if you begin reading the book and realize it is not the best choice for your child, please contact us and we'll do our best to accommodate a switch. Otherwise, you will need to select another book from an approved list and purchase it independently.

During the summer, we ask that students read the book carefully, taking notes using post-its or on a separate piece of paper. The summer assignment will require careful and thoughtful analysis of the book. Please encourage your child to read every day and work on completing their summer assignment at least once a week. This ensures avoiding a stressful end to your summer. Please watch for assignment information and your child's book on June 10, 2016, VTSD Book Day.

When students return to school, they will be given the opportunity to share their summer reading experiences. Our hope is that the discussion of their summer read will continue to promote lifelong reading habits as students learn from each other. Thank you for your help in supporting our efforts to promote a culture that values independent reading!

If you have any questions, please contact the LHMS literacy coach, Mrs. Rostami - jrostami@vtsd.com or 973-764-8753.

Thank you,
The Lounsberry Hollow Language Arts Department

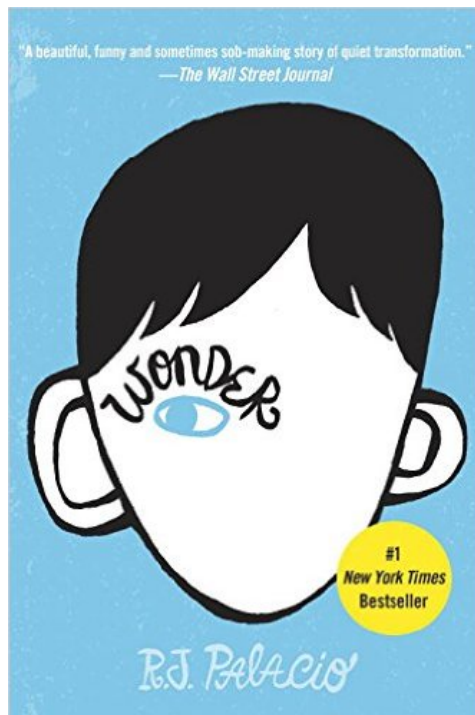
Student Name: _____

Yes, I approve Wonder as the summer reading book for my incoming 5th grade student.

Parent Signature: _____

Please return to your child's language arts teacher by Feb. 26, 2016

Wonder



Lexile® Measure:790L

DRA: 50

Students with a DRA lower than 50 may be eligible to use the audiobook version via www.LearningAlly.org

August Pullman is not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. Sure, he's a huge Star Wars fan, he loves his dog, and he's got a pretty good sense of humor. But August was born with a craniofacial abnormality, a genetic defect that caused his facial features to be severely deformed. His life has never been "normal."

Despite his differences, August and his parents decide to transition him from homeschool to private school now that he's entering fifth grade. It's the start of middle school, they reason, so everyone will be new. But August has to deal with so much more than just being new. Will he make friends? Will he decide to stay at the school? And can the people around him learn to see past his appearance?

This brilliant, sensitive story, narrated not only by August, but also by his older sister, his classmates, and other kids in his life, takes an insightful look at how one person's differences can affect the lives of so many others.

The New York Times Bestseller list
Junior Young Reader's Choice Award - 2015
Mark Twain Award - 2015