

## J.E. Cosgriff 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Summer Reading

**TASK:** For this assignment you will read **two (2)** separate readings that will correspond to the curriculum taught in the English and Literature for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and write **two TYPED** responses. You may complete the alternate assignment in lieu of **one** of the readings if you wish (optional). In addition, you should be prepared for further classroom discussion and assessment.

**SELECTIONS:** *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio & *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

**PURPOSE:** Besides having you read some great fiction, the purposes of this assignment are to:

- enhance your understanding of characters, situations, relationships, themes, and conflicts,
- make connections to the text,
- extend the reading beyond the text, and
- improve your analytical/expository writing skills.

### GRADING:

1. Read and fully **understand the prompt** before beginning each assignment. In your writing, **answer the questions** provided in the prompt.
2. Do your best to answer all the questions in each prompt. Each response is worth up to **20 points**.
3. **Type** your responses in Times New Roman, 12 point font. The response should be double spaced with 1” margins.
4. Meet the 250 word requirement; roughly **1 page for each response**. You may exceed this amount, but no longer than 3 pages total, please.
5. Support your ideas with specific evidence from the text. You must use at least **3 quotes** from the novel to support your ideas in **each** response.
6. Furthermore, collusion, cheating, and plagiarism **will not be tolerated** for the essays and reading journal and will result in an incomplete for the essay and/or reading journal for all individuals involved.
7. **Be prepared** for in class writing, quizzes and tests on all aspects of the works including vocabulary, plot, characters, literary elements, and literary devices.
8. Submit your responses on the assigned due date: **the first day of school**. Failure to submit the assignment will result in an INCOMPLETE grade.

*“The fears you do not face become your walls.”*  
—Robin S. Sharma

*“There are four kinds of people in the world, Ms. Harper. Those who build walls. Those who protect walls. Those who breach walls. And those who tear down walls. Much of life is discovering who you are. When you find out, you also realize there are places you can no longer go, things you can no longer do, words you can no longer say.”*

—“Cassie Draws the Universe” by P.S. Baber

*“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”*

—Maya Angelou

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## PROMPT #1: Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Directions: Choose **ONE** of the following prompts and write a short essay (approximately 250 words) that addresses the questions presented. 20 points.

1. Because *Wonder* is a coming-of-age story, character development is central to the novel. The coming-of-age genre focuses on the growth of characters as they transition between childhood and adulthood (or young-adulthood). Choose **three** characters from the novel and discuss their coming-of-age experience. How do they change? What motivates them to change? Who else is involved in that process?

2. Auggie's situation is relatable to many young people as he struggles to make friends and find a place in his new school. Palacio examines the idea of **courage**, particularly the courage to overcome great obstacles. How would you define courage? What about Auggie's situation makes it difficult to be courageous? How does Auggie show courage throughout the novel?

## PROMPT #2: Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Directions: Choose **ONE** of the following prompts and answer the questions in paragraph form (5-6 sentences each). 20 points.

1. In this prompt, you will write a **personal response using the Text-to-Self connections**. Explain how the book relates to you personally, and what it makes you think about.

- Do any of the characters remind me of people in my life?
- How is this similar to my life?
- How is this different from my life?
- What were my feelings when I read this?

2. In this prompt, you will write an **analytical response using Text-to-Text connections**. Explain how the book is similar or different from other works of literature you have read.

- How is this text similar to other works I've read?
- How is this different from other works I've read?
- How does the author's use of techniques and devices differ from other works I've read?
- If I were to choose another book similar to this one, which would I choose and why?