

## 2017 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS 6<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

The more students read, the more prepared they will be for class, for college, and for life. Our purpose in asking your child to read over the summer is to continue to develop an appreciation and enjoyment for reading. Thinking, discussing, and writing about a book as the year begins gives us some common ground from which we can discuss and share.

**Please locate the assignment for the grade level that your child will be entering in the fall of 2017.** For each grade level, please complete each part of the assignment, which will be due on the first day of school, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 6 & 7 will have one selection to complete. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have a second reading assignment in addition to their required novel – *A Teen's Guide to the 5 Love Languages: How to Understand Yourself and Improve All Your Relationships* by Gary Chapman, with Paige Haley Drygas in addition to their required novel. Please do not wait until August to enjoy these books. Start now!

### REMINDER FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS:

- Type your responses
- Send your work through spell and grammar check.
- Times New Roman– Font –Size 12 – double spaced
- Heading on top left of your paper
- Label each section
- Do not “share” any work with your peers.

John Doe  
Teacher Name  
English (grade level)  
Date (August 11, 2017)

Students must be prepared for a graded assessment on each novel read for their grade-level assignment during the first week of school. As a reminder, all written work is due on the first day of school and late work will not be accepted.

### Grade 6



**Required Reading:** This assignment is for all students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade:

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has

prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he simply wants to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates cannot overlook Auggie’s extraordinary face. WONDER, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie’s point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community’s struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

**Before Reading - Refer to formatting on page one for written responses**

Watch You Tube Video interview with author R. J. Palacio:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUJtGHhy41Q>

A. Write a paragraph (5 – 8 sentences) about what it must be like for children who are physically deformed but are intellectually and emotionally just like other kids.

**During Reading - Refer to formatting on page one for written responses**

A. The book has many thematic topics. Answer the questions that coincide with three (3) of the themes listed below. Be careful! Each theme has several questions; make sure you answer all of the questions for each theme. Remember, you only have to choose 3 out of the 5 below.

**1. Family Relationships**

- a. How does Via react to Auggie’s deformity, and how is she affected?
- b. She says, “I’m always going to be the sister of a kid with a birth defect; that’s not the issue. I just don’t always want to be defined that way.” What does she mean by this statement?

**2. Friendship** – Discuss the characteristics of a good friend.

- a. Which of Auggie’s friends demonstrates these qualities?
- b. What characteristics of a good friend does Auggie possess?
- c. How does Auggie’s ability to be “comfortable in his own skin” make it easier for his friends and family to relate to him?

**3. Overcoming Challenges** – Auggie’s attendance at Beecher Prep creates issues for students, parents, teachers, and the principal.

- a. What are some of the challenges that arise?
- b. How does each group of individuals overcome the challenges?
- c. What role does Auggie play in either helping or hurting the situation?
- d. In Mr. Tushman’s speech at the end of the year, he shares this quote, “Always try to be a little kinder than necessary.” How does being kind help someone overcome challenges?

**4. Bullying** – Kids who are different are almost always bullied in some way.

- a. How does Auggie know the first time he meets Julian that he will be a bully?
- b. In what subtle ways does Julian bully Auggie?
- c. What purpose does Julian have in bullying Jack?
- d. What power does Julian have to force the other students to join in his cruelty toward Auggie and Jack?
- e. What is Auggie’s response to the bullying?

**5. Betrayal** – Auggie and Jack are great friends; they laugh together, talk about anything and everything, and feel comfortable together.

- a. Why does Jack betray Auggie by talking about him behind his back?
- b. How does Auggie feel when he hears what Jack has said?

**After Reading - Refer to formatting on page one for written responses**

**A.** Select two characters from the novel. Describe one of their character traits and then give two examples of evidence from the novel that supports this character trait.

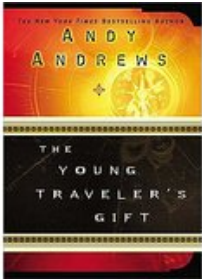
**B.** A precept is like a motto. Mr. Browne’s precepts for each month are listed in the novel. You can create your own or find one with which you identify. Create a precept for you. Write a paragraph (6-8 sentences) discussing why and how you plan to implement this precept in your daily life.

**C.** Write a paragraph (6-8 sentences) discussing why and how you plan to uphold this precept in your daily life.

## Grade 7

**Required Reading -** This assignment is for all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

**The Young Time Traveler's Gift** by Andy Andrews



In his senior year of high school, Michael hits rock bottom. Having been caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, he has now been suspended from the track team and lost his college scholarship. His coach is angry, his parents are disappointed, and he's diving headfirst into a downward spiral. Facing the bleak future, Michael sees no way out and wonders if life is really worth living. But with some divine intervention, he's given a second chance when he's offered a once-in-a-lifetime journey of discovery.

### **Directions:**

Read the novel and answer the chapter questions in complete well thought out sentences.

If you choose to copy and paste these questions into your Word Document, remember that you must restate the question in your response. “Yes or No”, “Because”, “He or She said”, etc. are not proper responses to these questions – all answers must begin with a restated question and then an appropriate response in complete sentences with correct grammar and punctuation.

### ***The Young Traveler's Gift***

#### **Chapter 1**

1. Michael had so many questions and thoughts running through his mind as the police officer called his parents. How would your parents feel if they got a phone call saying that you were in jail/? What might they say? How would they treat you and handle the situation?
2. Do you think it was fair for Michael's dad to expect him to pay for his attorney? Why or Why not?
3. Michael had not been drinking, but his friends had. He hadn't done anything wrong; he was just helping out. But now Michael was in as much trouble as his friends were. What should Michael have done? Is there a better choice that he could have made before getting behind the wheel of that car? What would you have done?

#### **Chapter 2**

1. Michael's friends and teachers treated him badly at school the next day. Do you think they treated him fairly? How would you have treated him? Explain your answer.
2. What did Michael's coach tell him? Do you think this was fair? Why or Why not?
3. The sign at the restaurant said they were hiring servers. At first, the manager seemed very eager to hire Michael. Why did he suddenly become disinterested? Do you think he had a valid reason? Why?

4. Michael left the restaurant feeling frustrated and hopeless. Why did he feel this way? What did he do next?

### **Chapter 3**

1. Where is Michael when he wakes up? Describe the setting in detail.

2. Michael thinks he might be in the hospital. Do you think he is dreaming? Do you think he is alive?

3. Whom does Michael meet here? This person tells Michael that the choices he has made will affect him for the rest of his life. Do you believe this is true? Explain and give an example.

4. Michael is given a piece of paper by this person. What does he learn when he opens it and reads it? In your own words, explain what this means.

### **Chapter 4**

1. What happened when Michael read the final words on the note? Where is he now?

2. What event is going on? Describe the situation.

3. Does Michael recognize the king? How does he know his identity?

4. Do you think that your friends influence what you do and the decisions you make? Why or why not? Give an example about your thinking.

5. The king left Michael with the second decision for success. What was it? In your own words, explain what it means.

### **Chapter 5**

1. Describe the setting in detail. What is the mood in the beginning of Chapter 5?

2. What war is Michael witnessing? Infer which battle this is.

### **Chapter 6**

1. Why is Michael feeling nauseous again?

2. Why did people think Columbus was crazy?

3. What does it mean to have a decided heart?

### **Chapter 7**

1. Michael is in a small room with seven people. Why aren't the people moving and talking? Explain what is going on at this very moment.

2. Soon a young girl gives Michael a tour. Who is this girl, where are they and what is the date?
3. Michael is surprised by the girl's response when he asks her what she complains about. In your own words, explain her response.
4. What is the fourth decision for success? Re-read pages 98-99 and explain how it is possible to be happy even when bad things are happening to you.

### **Chapter 8**

1. Michael returns to a place he visited earlier, but this time the setting is very different. Where is he? Describe in detail. Compare and contrast the events from this time to the events from before.
2. Who does Michael meet? Why did his wife not want him to be at this place? Why did he choose to go?
3. How did the man say people could avoid being criticized? Do you think this a good idea? Explain.
4. What is the most important action Lincoln takes on a regular basis? Why do you think this is important?
5. What is the sixth decision for success? Do you think forgiveness is something that needs to happen on a daily basis? What might be the consequences of not forgiving someone?

### **Chapter 9**

1. Michael finds himself in a very unusual place. Describe in detail. Where do you think he might be?
2. Where does Michael think he is? What actually is this place and why is he here?
3. Who does Michael meet? He tries to explain to Michael not to give up. What does he say?
4. What is Michael's responsibility since he is the last traveler?
5. What does it mean to persist without exception?

### **Chapter 10**

1. When Michael opens his eyes he is no longer in the \_\_\_\_\_ but in the \_\_\_\_\_. Where is he now?
2. What does Michael see and hear? What is going on?
3. Michael runs out of the building. Where do you think he is going? Why do you think he is running? What is he going to do?

### **Chapter 11**

1. Where is Michael now? To whom is he talking? How is his attitude different from the way it was in the end of chapter 2?

2. Why did his attitude change?
3. What does Michael find in his backpack? Why do you think it brought tears to his eyes?
4. Predict what will happen next. What will Michael do with his experience?
5. Look back over the seven decisions. List them on your paper. Do you think any of these could make a difference in your life? How?
6. What do you think was the author's purpose in writing this book?

**\*\*On an index card, please do the following:**

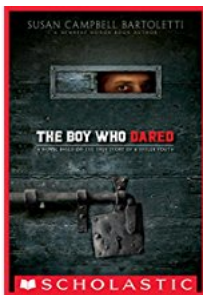
List the 7 decisions for success. Select 5 decisions and be prepared to give a real life example of each. You may use examples from your personal life, a Bible story or an example from literature. This may be done orally so please be prepared to share. The index cards will be checked, but you are preparing them to benefit you!

## Grade 8

**GRADE 8** (Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders have 2 books to read, so please scroll down.)

**Required Reading #1:** This assignment is for all students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

**The Boy Who Dared** by Susan Campbell Bartoletti



A Newbery Honor Book author has written a powerful and gripping novel about a youth in Nazi Germany who tells the truth about Hitler. When 16-year-old Helmut Hubner listens to the BBC news on an illegal short-wave radio, he quickly discovers Germany is lying to the people. But when he tries to expose the truth with leaflets, he's tried for treason. Sentenced to death and waiting in a jail cell, Helmut's story emerges in a series of flashbacks that show his growth from a naive child caught up in the patriotism of the times, to a sensitive and mature young man who thinks for himself.

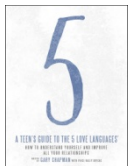
**Reminder: Refer to formatting on page one for written responses**

**Reading Journal (10 entries, 10 points each)**

A reading journal is a way to record your thoughts as a conversation between you and the text. You will track key ideas, ask questions you have about the text, and react to what happens in the text.

As you read, **choose quotes or short passages from the book that stand out to you.** You will copy the quote or parts of the passage that stand out to you. Make sure to include the chapter and page number(s) of the passage. Look for quotes that speak to you! They can remind you of something in your own life, make you realize something about the plot or about a character, or reveals something important about the book. Make sure the quotes are spread out pretty evenly throughout the book and not all from one section of the book. No more than one quote per chapter.

After you select your quotes, then you need to analyze what the quote means in your own words. This should be no longer than 5 sentences. To analyze the quote, ask yourself questions such as why the quote is important to the book or that specific chapter. How does the quote relate to a major character, or to the plot? In your response, you can also include things like how the quote relates to your life, how the quote applies to something in the real world, how the quote reveals something about a character, or how the quote relates to another book, movie, TV show, etc. ***These responses must be original and your own thoughts and words. Use a variety of the types of responses and not just one type for all ten journals. These responses need to be well thought out and detailed responses.***



## **Required Reading #2 (Christian Reading)**

**A Teen's Guide to the 5 Love Languages: How to Understand Yourself and Improve All Your Relationships** by Gary Chapman, with Paige Haley Drygas

***The secret to great relationships—just for teens***

*#1 New York Times bestselling book The 5 Love Languages has sold over 10 million copies, helping countless relationships thrive. Simply put, it works. But do the five love languages work for teens, for their relationships with parents, siblings, friends, teachers, coaches, and significant others? Yes!*

*Introducing A Teen's Guide to the 5 Love Languages, the first-ever edition written just to teens, for teens, and with a teen's world in mind. It guides emerging adults in discovering and understanding their own love languages as well as how to best express love to others.*

***This highly practical book will help teens answer questions like:***

- *What motivates and inspires me?*
- *What does it mean to be a caring friend?*
- *What communicates love to my family?*
- *What is the best way to get along with the opposite sex?*



**Features include:**

- *A straight-forward overview of the 5 love languages*
- *A profile/assessment instrument specifically geared to teens*
- *Practical examples/tips for how to apply each language in a teen's context*
- *Graphics that drive home key concepts*

*Teens' relationships matter, and these simple ideas will help them thrive.*

**ASSIGNMENT:** After reading the book, be sure to take the Love Language Profile (at the end) to identify your Primary Love Language (PLL). Then, answer the following in complete sentences. You will need to type the questions and then give your response. **This will be turned in to your Bible teacher on the first day of school.**

1. What were the results of your Love Language Profile? (Give your primary and secondary languages, and include if you are "bilingual".)
2. Did the results surprise you? If so, how?
3. What evidence do you see of your primary love language (PLL) in your day-to-day life?
4. Look back at the warning for your PLL. Have you experienced any of the situations described? How can you prevent this from happening in the future?
5. How will knowing your PLL and the PLL of your family/friends improve your relationships?