

John Hill School Summer Reading Program

(Students about to begin 7th Grade)



Name of Student _____

John Hill School Summer Reading Table of Contents

Letter to the Students & Parents	2
Frequently Asked Questions	3
Summer Reading Requirements	4
Guidelines for the Completion of Reading Assignment	
Guidelines for Completion of Written Assignment	
Guidelines for Extra Credit Viewing Activity	
Optional Extra Credit Viewing Assignment Instructions	5
Rubric for Scoring Summer Reading	6

June 2019

Dear JHS Students and Parents/Guardians:

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and the pages are turning! It is time once again for summer vacation and summer reading! Reading is not only a wonderful way to journey into new worlds while basking in the sun, but it is also a necessary tool for improving students' reading and writing skills, skills needed in almost every aspect of life. JHS Middle School is committed to fostering a reading community, and with this in mind, our faculty is continuing to develop our summer reading program.

This packet will give you the summer reading information that all students entering 7th grade will need. In it you will find a short synopsis of this novel, instructions for completing the summer reading assignment, frequently asked questions (and answers), and other miscellaneous information that you may need for better time management. Please review the contents of this packet carefully.

Incoming Grade 7 students will be required to read the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. This novel will become a part of ELA studies in September. All the students will be reading one common novel in order to foster community-building and to start conversations. It is hoped that

“The impact of a common reading experience on student learning may be magnified by multiple conversations students have about the common reading experience, through formal faculty- or staff led discussions and spontaneous student-student conversations that may 'spill over' to informal settings (Astin).

The goal is to build a reading community through a shared text that we hope students, families, faculty, and staff will read.

An extra credit portion of the Summer Reading program is a viewing activity designed to address the Common Core Standards for "Viewing." Students entering the seventh grade may choose to watch *The Sandlot*. Once the film has been seen, students will reply to ONE of the two open-ended prompts included in this packet.

The attached information should address any questions and concerns that you may have. If the need arises, please feel free to contact the school office at (973) 335-9700.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
The English Department
of John Hill School

Frequently Asked Questions About Summer Reading

Q: When are the summer reading assignments due?

A: All summer reading assignments are officially due on the first day of school in September (September 6, 2019).

Q: What happens if an assignment is returned late?

A: As with all assignments, each school day that passes before it is submitted will result in ten points being deducted from the final grade. For example, if the assignment is due on Wednesday, but is not turned in until Friday (2 days late), the highest grade that can be achieved for that particular assignment is an 80.

Q: Do these assignments "count"?

A: Yes, these assignments do get graded, and these grades are averaged into the final grade for the first marking period. If a student neglects to submit the summer reading assignment, he or she will automatically earn a zero. Summer reading is meant to foster students' reading, writing, and cognitive skills; it is not meant as punishment, but it will be perceived as such if your child is permitted to neglect his or her responsibilities.

Q: How much is each assignment worth?

A: The required reading activity will count as a test grade.

Q: How many books do you have to read?

A: Students are required to read ONE book: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

Q: Are students transferring into the district required to complete the summer reading assignments?

A: Yes, new students to John Hill School are required to complete the summer reading assignments. Upon registering at John Hill School, the new student will receive a summer reading packet. Dependent upon when the student registered, an appropriate amount of time will be afforded to these transferees to complete the reading/viewing and assignments.

Summer Reading Requirements

Guidelines for the Completion of Assignments

7th Grade

Part One - Required Reading

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Synopsis: 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 wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid- but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

Procedures - Reading

1. Read the book. It would be beneficial to you to take notes as you read.
2. Complete the writing activity described below.
3. Submit the completed assignment to your ELA teacher on September 6, 2019, the first day of school.

Procedures - Writing Assignment

1. Find a review of the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Use a reputable source such as *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Telegraph*.
2. Do you agree with the reviewer?
3. Write your own book review using the review as a model. (See page 6 for scoring rubric)
 - a. Your written response should be at least 3 paragraphs
 - b. Typed
 - c. Times New Roman
 - d. 12-font.
 - e. It must include details from the novel to support your opinions about the book.
4. Attach a hard copy of the book review with your written response when submitting this assignment. Please do NOT simply copy and paste the link to the article.

Part Two - Extra-Credit Viewing

1. View the movie *The Sandlot*.
2. While watching the movie, take notes about each of the characters (their personalities, their actions and interactions with other characters).
3. After viewing the film, select and respond to ONE of the two open-ended questions on page 5 of this packet. Your response should be typed on a separate piece of paper. Please, do not respond in this packet.
4. Keep these responses neat and clean.
5. Submit to your ELA teacher on the FIRST day of school.

Extra-Credit Assignment

Viewing/Reviewing Aspects of a Video

Open-Ended Questions for *The Sandlot*

Directions:

1. View *The Sandlot*.
2. While watching the film, take notes about one of the main character's personality traits. Note how this character's personality changes and why this change occurred. Also note the behaviors of this character and how he, she, or it interacts with the other characters.
3. After viewing the movie, respond in paragraph form to one of the open-ended questions below. Your response should be typed, double-spaced, and contain at least 14 sentences. Keep your response neat and clean. Place it in the right hand side pocket of a two-pocket folder and return it to your Communication Arts teacher on the first day of school.

Note: You may choose to respond to the second open-ended questions for additional extra credit.

Open-Ended Questions

Respond to each of the following questions in paragraph form. Each paragraph is to be at least 14 sentences in length, but may be longer. Please use complete sentences, and make certain paragraph remains on topic, follows a logical order, and uses transitions. Type your responses in size 12 Times New Roman font. If and only if you do not have access to a computer, you may hand write your response. In this case, neatly write your response in blue or black ink and on one side of the paper. Place your response in your summer reading folder and hand it in to your Communication Arts teacher on the first day of school.

Open-ended Question #1

- What are two of the most obvious personality traits of _____ ? (Some examples might include courageous, outgoing, kind, malicious, etc.)
 - Describe these traits.
 - Use details and examples from the film to support your commentary.
- What is one of the least obvious personality traits of this character? Select a trait that is not shown outwardly, but is more something that you figure out about the character as the story progresses, or maybe it is a trait that is overlooked by the other characters.
 - Describe this trait.
 - Use details and examples from the film to support your commentary. How does this character's personality change throughout the story? (If his or her personality did not change, how you feel this character might have benefited from a change?)

Open-ended Question #2

- On a scale of one to four stars, how would you rate *The Sandlot*? What are the reasons for your rating?
- Use details from the film to justify your remarks.

Summer Reading Book Review Grading Rubric

	A (10-9)	B (8)	C (7)	D/F (6 or less)
<i>Introduction</i> (____/10)=	The student artfully creates an engaging hook that hooks the reader. Includes the book title and author.	The student creates a hook that somewhat hooks the reader. Includes the book title and author.	The student creates an average hook. Includes the book title and author.	The student does not create a hook. Missing book title and author.
<i>Setting & Characters</i> (____/10)=	Accurately/specifically describes the setting. Introduces/describes the main characters. Includes traits that fully describe the character.	Accurately describes the setting. May leave out some details. Introduces the main characters. May leave out descriptions. Includes traits that somewhat describe characters.	Includes setting with no detail. Includes main characters with no detail. Includes traits that do not describe character.	Does not include setting. Does not include main characters. Does not include character traits.
<i>Plot Summary</i> (____/10)=	Accurately sums up the main events in the story. Fully identifies the main conflicts/problems in the story.	Somewhat sums up main events. Somewhat identifies main conflicts.	Leaves out some main events. Inaccurately identifies main events.	Does not include major events. Does not include main conflicts.
<i>Evaluation</i> (____/10)=	Student clearly states their opinion of the book. Identifies a correct target audience for the book. Gives specific evidence to support opinions.	Student somewhat states opinion. Identifies target audience. Gives vague evidence to support opinion.	Student is not decisive in opinion. Identifies an incorrect target audience. Give no relevant evidence to support opinion.	Student does not give opinion. Does not identify target audience. Does not give evidence to support opinion.
<i>Writing/Style/Format</i> (____/10)=	Book review is multiple paragraphs (3 or more). Paragraphs flow smoothly from one topic to the next uses precise and varied word choice. Review has very few, if any, grammatical and spelling errors.	Book review is at least 2 paragraphs. Paragraphs flow. Uses varied word choice. Review has some grammatical and spelling errors.	Book review is at least 2 paragraphs. Paragraphs do not flow. Word choice is repetitive. Writing has many grammatical and spelling errors.	May be less than 2 paragraphs. Word choice is not varied. Grammatical and spelling errors make writing unclear.

Notes/Comments:

Grade: _____ /50 pts. (x2)= _____ %