

Dear students and parents,

Once again, St. Joseph School is assigning a summer reading book for students entering Grades 6-8. We want to stress the importance of reading to help build language, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Students are expected to purchase, read and annotate the book *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. **Please note: The book needs to include the Julian chapter at the end.** Students should return to class in August ready to discuss the book and have the attached assignments completed.

Also attached is a reminder on how and what to annotate while reading. You may annotate directly in the book or use sticky notes.

Grades 6-8 English teacher

Summer Reading Assignment for
Wonder
 By: RJ Palacio

Vocabulary - While reading the book, record ten words that you are unfamiliar with. Write down the page number, word and a context clue definition.

Page Number	Word	Context Clue Definition
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Name _____ Grade _____

Setting is defined as where and when a story takes place. Describe the setting in *Wonder*. Use complete sentences.

Characters - Fill in the chart with information (physical descriptions, personality traits) about the characters given. Use this chart throughout the reading of the novel.

Character	Physical description, personality traits
August Pullman	
Jack Will	
Julian Albans	

How to Annotate

Notice and comment upon a literary device - simile, metaphor, alliteration, repetition, irony, symbolism, etc. What effect does it create for you?

Discuss a part that is confusing to you.

Ask the author a question about a passage.

Join down any connections to other texts, movies, or historic/current events that you notice. Is the author alluding to something else? If so, discuss this.

Explain the moments of emotional impact. How are you feeling? Is this what the author hoped you would feel? How did the author create this feeling in you?

Why did the author phrase a passage in a particular way? What is the effect of that word choice?

Do you agree or disagree with an idea being presented? Why?

When you encounter a word that you don't know, look it up in the dictionary and write down its definition.

Discuss your changing feelings toward specific characters. What's caused this shift?

Describe what's missing in the text. What do you wish the author had included?

Use your inference skills. Is the author using a passage or relationship to try to tell you something deeper than what is being said directly?

Or write about anything else that comes to mind as you're reading...

It's important to annotate, or interact with a text, as you read. As you naturally have ideas, feelings, questions, or make mental connections to other things in your world based on the bit of text you just read, you need to pause and jot down those thoughts. An easy way to do this is with sticky notes. Just write your thought and stick it on the page next to the bit of relevant text. (If you own the book you're reading, feel free to write directly on the page.) Each annotation needs to include at least two well-developed sentences that help me understand what you're experiencing as you read.

Check out these models of what to do - and what not to do:

Do this

Thunder cracks outside as Vivian walks into the room, which gives me a small knot in my stomach. I think the author is using that weather effect to make readers fear this new character. Will Vivian be the ultimate villain of this story or is the author just trying to trick me?

The author keeps taking us back to this post office. This is the third time we've been here, so I'm wondering what's significant about this. I think it might be symbolically important, but I don't get it. Author, what's with your post office obsession?

Not this

I LOVE THIS!
I'm so happy
right now.

What, what?
I don't understand.

← Make your own bookmark. Just clip along the dotted line and you'll have easy access to annotation-inspiration as you read. Enjoy.

Making Annotations: A User's Guide

As you work with your text, consider all of the ways that you can connect with what you are reading. Here are some suggestions that will help you with your annotations:

- Define words or slang; make the words real with examples from your experiences; explore why the author would have used a particular word or phrase.
- Make connections to other parts of the book. Feel free to use direct quotes from the book.
- Make connections to other texts you have read or seen, including:
 - Movies
 - Comic books/graphic novels
 - News events
 - Other books, stories, plays, songs, or poems
- Draw a picture when a visual connection is appropriate.
- Re-write, paraphrase, or summarize a particularly difficult passage or moment.
- Make meaningful connections to your own life experiences.
- Describe a new perspective you may now have.
- Explain the historical context or traditions/social customs that are used in the passage.
- Offer an analysis or interpretation of what is happening in the text.
- Point out and discuss literary techniques that the author is using.

Suggested Summer Reading List for Grades 6-8
St. Joseph School

1. Holes by Louis Sachar
2. The Hunger Games (series) by Suzanne Collins
3. The Lightning Thief (Percy Jackson series) by Rick Riordan
4. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
5. Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
6. The Chronicles of Narnia (series) by C.S. Lewis
7. Harry Potter (series) by J.K. Rowling
8. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
9. Divergent (series) by Veronica Roth
10. Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
11. Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
12. The BFG by Roald Dahl
13. Artemis Fowl (series) by Eoin Colfer
14. The Lord of the Rings (series) by J.R.R. Tolkien
15. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
16. The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
17. The Giver by Lois Lowry
18. Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements
19. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
20. The Watsons go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis