



## Summer 2022 Literature -- Required Summer Work for the Class of 2023 (Rising 8th)

1. Read **Wonder**, by R.J. Palacio

This summer BSS will participate in a "one book, one school" summer read. One book, one school is a program designed to bring a school community together by reading the same book, preschool through 8th grade. It allows teachers, parents, and students to come together as a community and share a common bond by reading the same book. Last year we read *El Deafo*, by C.C. Bell. This year, together we will read the book **Wonder** by R.J. Palacio. (Students in grades 3-8 will read the novel version.) Your family will have to purchase this book. Return to school prepared to discuss the book and your impressions. We are excited to continue this program and hope that this tradition will bring our community even closer together. Below is a summary from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Millions of people have fallen in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face—who shows us that kindness brings us together no matter how far apart we are.*

*I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.*

*August Pullman was born with a facial difference 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. Beginning from Auggie's point of view and expanding to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others, the perspectives converge to form a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope.*

*R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness"—indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.*

Assignment linked to **Wonder**: Think of a situation in which you became aware of someone who was different, or who had an appearance or condition that you were not accustomed to seeing. Write a letter of

encouragement to that person in a way that communicates your first impressions, how your understanding and impressions changed or evolved, and what you learned about the person's situation that changed you. The letter may be handwritten or typed and it will be turned in on the first day of school, so please print it out if you type it. Feel free to change the name(s) of people involved so that the circumstances are presented in a more confidential or anonymous way. The letter should be 150-250 words.

## 2. Read ***The Merchant of Venice*** by William Shakespeare

This play launches our study of Shakespeare. Read the whole play and complete the following activities. You are being given a numbered book from school, and you will need to bring that back to school with you and return it this fall. To help support your understanding of the play, feel free to read **No Fear Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*** or go to Spark Notes to reinforce your understanding of the plot, characters, and key themes.

- Keep a "vocabulary log" of words (and the page number on which your words appear) you do not understand even after reviewing the definitions in the book. Your log may be lengthy, because the spoken language during Shakespeare's time was different and he used sophisticated vocabulary.
- Create a cartoon, timeline, image map, or plot journey to summarize the plot and key themes. Be sure to include your name on your work.

## 3. Reveal Your Favorite Genre

Create an illustration, pictograph, or comic strip that somehow **communicates the literary genre you like the most** (genres of literature include non-fiction, patterned poetry, narrative verse, short stories, novels, dramas, myths, fables, tall tales, biography, autobiography, fantasy, science fiction, and historical and contemporary fiction). Your illustration must also communicate **WHY** you like that genre so much. Finally, your illustration must include titles and author names of two (2) of your favorite books in the genre you like most and a short phrase (bullet) that communicates what you most liked about each of those three books. Be sure to include your name on your illustration.

### **General Advice for Summer**

*The most effective ongoing preparation for the High School Placement Test is to **read voraciously** (which means to read, read, read!), look up and learn new vocabulary as you go, and **practice basic arithmetic** so you are nimble with computation and general math facts. Avid reading expands your vocabulary, strengthens familiarity with language mechanics and writing styles, and reinforces proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Practicing basic arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, long division, fractions, decimals, percentages, etc.) helps because many math problems on HSPT involve computation.*

**SUMMER 2022**



**TO: BSS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Math Summer Assignments  
Math 8th Grade**

**Complete Math workbooks (including  
yellow page brain aerobics) that were  
sent home in the backpacks.**

**Have a great summer,**

**Ms. Cassella and Mr. Najarro  
MS Math Teachers**



## Summer 2022 – Optional Science Assignments for the Class of 2023 (Rising 8th)

### Optional Science Summer Work

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. The items below ARE NOT required. This science may be submitted as extra credit assignments. Any optional science work you complete is due on the first day of science class 2022.

#### **Option 1 - Science in the Summer** (max of 5-10 bonus points, depending on quality; the real benefit is what you learn!)

Students are encouraged to visit a science or discovery museum, a nature center, a National Park, or an outdoor museum such as a botanical garden or zoo and spend some time investigating the exhibits and/or speaking with the park ranger or docent. Pursue these options if they are available or, if not, take virtual trips, do some science experiments at home, or keep a nature journal. To receive extra credit, complete a one-page (200-300 words) written paper giving specific information and descriptions about what you did and where, what you observed and learned, and what you found most fascinating. Photos and/or drawings are welcome additions. If you keep a nature journal this summer, then submit your journal for me to review instead of doing a one-page paper.

Some really interesting places to visit virtually are the Exploratorium, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and virtual tours available for many national parks. Visit places (virtually) in other parts of the world too! If you like experiments, there are lots of online resources and kits (e.g., Steve Spangler). If you keep a nature journal, make observations, draw pictures, gather data, ask questions, and make connections.

#### **Option 2 - Reading and Writing about Real Scientists** (max of 10-15 points, depending on quality)

Read a biography or autobiography about a scientist or inventor. Write a five-paragraph essay including:

- Your name, "8th Grade Optional Summer Science Work," name of book and scientist;
- Introductory paragraph including when and where the scientist lived and why he/she is significant;
- One paragraph summarizing highlights from his/her life (scientific work and achievements);
- One paragraph describing any particular challenges the scientist faced (personally or in the work);
- One paragraph about how his/her life is similar to and/or different from your own;
- A closing paragraph that tells what you found most interesting about that scientist.
- Include a bibliographic citation: title, author, publisher, and publishing date of book.

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