

# Township of Union Public Schools



## English Department Summer Reading Assignments for Students Entering Grade 5

**Summer 2018**

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## Introduction

The Township of Union Public Schools English Summer Reading Program strives to present current, relevant, and/or high-interest literature to a students, parents/guardians, and staff. This year, the summer reading assignments for students have changed in order to reflect a more meaningful summer reading program that allows students to connect their summer reading to their work in the classroom. The activity they complete will be useful to them in class discussions, activities, and writing assignments. The activity described in this packet will serve as their summer reading assignment and will be graded as such. This packet will also be available online on the district and school websites.



**Jefferson Elementary School students participate in a program called The Leader in Me.** This leadership program is built on Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. This year, students will engage in a summer reading activity that will not only provide an enjoyable reading experience but will also help students get a jump start on building their leadership skills. This year, the focus will be on **Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood**. We encourage all students and their parents/guardians to read the novel together and to engage in some of the tasks.

This assignment will be due on **September 14, 2018**. Happy reading!

### **If You Have Any Questions:**

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Randi Moran, English Supervisor, Grades 5-12 at [rmoran@twpunionschools.org](mailto:rmoran@twpunionschools.org) or Mrs. Laura Damato, Principal, at [ldamato@twpunionschools.org](mailto:ldamato@twpunionschools.org)

## **Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood**

***Seek First to Understand** means to listen to how other people feel before sharing your thoughts. This is one of the hardest habits to master, but it's also one of the most important. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in getting our point across, that we completely ignore the other person. Sometimes we forget to try to understand how other people feel before we act or speak.*

### **How can you *Seek First to Understand* in your everyday life?**

- Listen with your eyes, ears, and heart. Try to make eye contact when someone is talking to show them that you're paying attention. Use your ears to hear what they have to say and how they feel. Lastly, use your heart to empathize with them and care about what they are sharing with you.
- Repeat back what you hear. To make sure you really understand, repeat what the other person said.
- Help friends when you see them having a misunderstanding. Help them take turns explaining their sides of the story. Remind the other person that it is not their turn to talk yet. After they listen to the other person, they'll get their chance to share their feelings. When that time comes, make sure the one who already shared listens to the other person as well.

## **FOR STUDENTS**

***Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade! Your preparation for a great school year begins now! Throughout 5<sup>th</sup> grade, you will learn a lot about how to be a great leader, friend, and student by practicing 7 Habits! To help you get a jump start, everyone in Jefferson School will be reading the same book!***

**Directions:** Please read the following book and then complete the activities on the next page. You should hand in your work to your Language Arts teacher by September 14, 2018.



### ***Wonder* by R. J. Palacio**

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*You will hand this page in on September 14<sup>th</sup>!*

**Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood  
Wonder by R. J. Palacio – Short Answer Questions**

**Directions:** After reading *Wonder*, answer the following questions. Hand them in to your teacher by September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**1. In your own words, what do you think it means to listen?**

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**2. Which character do you want to be most like in 5<sup>th</sup> grade? Why do you want to be like this character?**

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**3. What are some of the characteristics of a good friend? Which character do you think is an example good friend?**

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**4. Have you ever seen someone whose appearance shocked or surprised you? How did you react? After reading *Wonder* do you think you'll behave differently in the future?**

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## ***Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood***

### **Listening with Ears, Eyes, and Heart**

**Directions:** Complete all parts of the activity. Hand it in to your teacher by September 14<sup>th</sup>.

When we listen with our ears, eyes, and heart we:

- listen to other people's ideas and feelings.
- try to see things from their viewpoints.
- listen to others without interrupting.
- look people in the eyes when talking.

#### **Part 1**

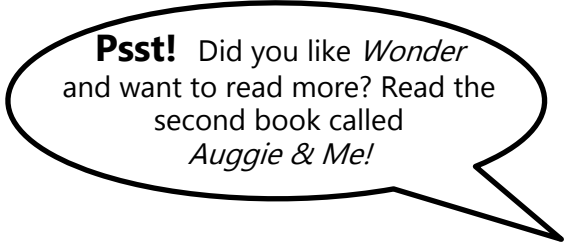
Create a poster on a piece of regular size computer paper (8.5x11" or larger) that shows that Habit #5 means to you. Think about how someone might think if they are following Habit #5, how they might act when they are listening, or why it is important to practice Habit #5.

#### **Part 2**

Write a paragraph of 5 or more sentences that explains what you included on your poster and what Habit #5 means to you.

### **Summer Reading Checklist**

- I read *Wonder*!
- I answered the four short answer questions
- I completed Part 1 of the Poster Project
- I completed Part 2 of the Poster Project



**Psst!** Did you like *Wonder* and want to read more? Read the second book called *Auggie & Me!*

# FOR PARENTS

## ***Habit #5: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood***

We encourage you to read *Wonder* along with your student and take opportunities to discuss how characters are being treated, how they are being misunderstood, and how things could be different if characters took more time to get to know each other and practice empathy.

**Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood** means that it is better to listen first and talk second. By taking the time to listen to another person, you reach a higher level of communication. Children can sometimes find it difficult to understand another's point of view.

This habit is the key to communication. If you're like most people, you probably seek first to be understood – you want to get your point across. You may ignore the other person completely, pretend that you're listening, or “half-listen”, but miss the meaning entirely. Why does this happen? *Because most people listen with the intent to reply, not to understand.*

You can help your children practice Habit #5 by modeling effective listening. Below, you can find some activities that may help you and your student practice and model effective listening.

1. To better understand how listening can help or hurt a relationship, try “pretend listening” with your student for a few minutes. Your student will be frustrated. Explain what you were doing and discuss how your child felt. Now have your child ignore you when you are talking. Discuss how it makes you feel when you are ignored. Finish the discussion by thinking of ways to let the other person know when you feel you are not being truly listened to.
2. Body language can be even more important than words. Play a game with your student where you each try to guess the other's emotion (happy, sad, angry, frustrated, bored, etc.) without using any words, just body language.
3. Demonstrate how saying the same phrase in a different tone of voice can give the phrase a completely different meaning. Try emphasizing different words in the phrase “I didn't say you did it” and then have your child tell you how the meaning changed.