



Charleston Day School

Summer Reading 2026 Rising 5th Grade

Required Reading (all students read)

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Included in this packet is a writing activity related to *Wonder*. Please complete this thoughtfully and bring **both your completed assignment and a copy of the book** with you on the first day of class. Take your time and put forth your best effort—this will be a first opportunity to see your writing!

CHOICE

- Read two additional self-selected books that fit the given category/themes below.
- Choose books that you have not already read.
- You are not limited to the books on the recommendation list. Use the list if you need ideas; choose your own book if you have a personal pick that matches the themes! **No graphic novels or picture books, please.**

Category 1: Survival

Category 2: Courageous Choices

You are required to **type a brief summary report** for your two free choice books. Each report should include the following information:

SAMPLE

1. Title: *The Lemonade War*
2. Author's full name: Jacqueline Davies
3. Number of Pages: 192 pages
4. Date completed: June 5, 2024
5. Gist statement: *Fourth-grader Evan Treski is good at talking with people, even grownups. On the other hand, his younger sister, Jessie, is math-smart but not especially good with people. When the siblings' lemonade stand war begins, there really is no telling who will win—or even if their fight will ever end.*
6. Parent Signature:

Your **typed, brief, reports** are due on the **first day of school**.

As outlined in the Charleston Day School Handbook, incomplete work may result in both academic and disciplinary consequences.

Completing this assignment on time demonstrates responsibility and shows that you are prepared to begin fifth grade with a strong start.

Name: _____

Summer Reading Log

Use this log to keep track of all the books you read this summer. Be sure to use proper spelling, capitalization, and legible handwriting.

Title	Author	Page Count

Survival Book Suggestions

How will I know if a book is considered a survival book? Look for book choices where the main character must overcome dangerous, difficult, or challenging situations using courage, problem-solving, perseverance, or teamwork in order to physically or emotionally “survive.” Some clues that a book is a survival book are things like the character is lost, stranded, or separated from safety. There is a struggle against nature, disaster, danger, or hardship. The character makes difficult choices to stay safe or keep others safe.

Across the Desert	Dusti Bowling
Alone	Megan E. Freeman
Conspiracy 365** (must read series in order)	Gabrielle Lord
Far North	Will Hobbs
Hatchet**	Gary Paulsen
Holes	Louis Sachar
Island of the Blue Dolphins**	Scott O’Dell
Julie of the Wolves**	Jean Craighead George
Kavik the Wolf Dog	Walt Morey
Land of Stories**	Chris Colfer
The Last Cuentista	Donna Barba Higuera
A Little Princess	Hodgson Burnett
The Magic Half**	Annie Barrows
The Meaning of Maggie	Megan Jean Sovern
My Side of the Mountain**	Jean Craighead George
A Night Divided	Jennifer Nielsen
Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World (non-fiction)	Jennifer Armstrong
War That Saved My Life**	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Wide Awake Princess**	E.D. Baker

**sequels or companion books available

Courageous Choices Book Suggestions

How will I know if a book is considered a courageous choice book? Look for books where the main character faces pressure from others but chooses to do what he/she believes is right anyway. The main character chooses between what is popular versus what is right. A character will speak up when something unfair happens. The character risks losing friendships, popularity, or approval of others. The character follows his/her conscience instead of the crowd.

All the Answers
Because of Mr. Terupt**
Esperanza Rising
Ghost**
Harry Potter**
The Hundred Dresses
A Long Walk to Water
Maniac Magee
Music of Dolphins
One and Only Ivan**
Rain Reign
Restart
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
Towers Falling

Kate Messner
Rob Buyea
Pam Munoz Ryan
Jason Reynolds
J.K. Rowling
Eleanor Estes
Linda Sue Park
Jerry Spinelli
Karen Hesse
Katherine Applegate
Ann M. Martin
Gordon Korman
Eleanor Coerr
Jewell Parker Rhodes

**sequels or companion books available