

## Literature Circle: Wonder

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<b>Grades:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Day of Week:</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>Time of Class:</b>	<b>3:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET</b>
<b>Length of Class:</b>	<b>10 weeks</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Spring 2021</b>
<b>Tuition:</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

### Class Dates:

Week 1: April 5  
Week 2: April 12  
Week 3: April 19  
Week 4: April 26  
Week 5: May 3  
Mid-Term Break May 10 - 16 (Eid Al Fitr)  
Week 6: May 17  
Week 7: May 24  
Week 8: May 31  
Week 9: June 7  
Week 10: June 14  
Make Up Week: June 21

<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	<b>Eva Goldstein - Meola</b>
<b>Instructor's Email:</b>	<b><a href="mailto:eva@writingteacher.com">eva@writingteacher.com</a></b>
<b>Instructor's Skype:</b>	<b>eva.goldstein.meola</b>
<b>Instructor's Phone:</b>	<b>786-605-0694</b>
<b>Instructor's Whats App:</b>	<b>+972-58-642-5051</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>By appointment</b>

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## Description of Class:

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a severe facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face. *Wonder* begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include the perspectives of his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These voices converge to portray a community as it struggles with differences, and challenges readers, both young and old, to wonder about the true nature of empathy, compassion, acceptance, friendship, and—ultimately—kindness. Auggie is a hero for the ages, one who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

*Wonder* has been a New York Times bestseller for over 5 years in a row (with over 140 weeks as #1). It's received numerous national and international awards, including being one of Time magazine's 100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time (January 2015), and USA Today's Top 100 bestsellers. It is a book all upper Elementary students should read.

Together, we will read, discuss, analyze, write and explore both Ally's world as well as investigate the truth about others who live with differences. We will focus on the various literary analysis elements such as characters, setting, plot, conflict, climax and resolution.

What is a Literature Circle?

In literature circles, small groups of students gather together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' responses to what they have read. You may hear talk about events and characters in the book, the author's craft, or personal experiences related to the story. Literature circles provide a way for students to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books. Collaboration is at the heart of this approach. Students reshape and add onto their understanding as they construct meaning with other readers. Finally, literature circles guide students to deeper understanding of what they read through structured discussion and extended written and artistic response.

## Class Approach:

The class will be a combination of reading comprehension, journal writing (reflection), discussion, lecture and projects.

## Textbook:

*Wonder*

By R.J. Palacio

[https://www.amazon.com/Wonder-R-J-Palacio/dp/0375869026/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?keywords=wonder&qid=1579989075&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Wonder-R-J-Palacio/dp/0375869026/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=wonder&qid=1579989075&sr=8-2)

**\*\* PLEASE DO NOT HAVE STUDENTS PRE-READ BOOK. \*\***

### **Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:**

Microphone / Headset for Class Discussions  
single subject spiral notebook for journal reflections  
Pencil / Pen  
Colored Pencils / Markers / Crayons  
Basic Art Supplies  
Access to PowerPoint (if student chooses this option)

### **Requirements:**

A sensitivity to other students and any emotions that may come out during the reading of the book as well as discussions.

Students are EXPECTED to participate in class discussions.

### **Weekly Homework:**

Approximately a 60 – 90 minutes weekly.

**\*\* PLEASE DO NOT HAVE STUDENTS PRE-READ BOOK. \*\***

NOTE: I may opt to have the students WATCH the movie WONDER for a compare/contrast activity. If so, you would need to stream the movie via Netflix or Amazon Prime. The homework this week would be longer than normal because of the two-hour movie.

### **Homework Policy:**

It is expected that students will keep up with the reading to be able to fully participate in class.

### **Grading Scale:**

Exceeds Expectations  
Meets Expectations  
Not Yet  
Incomplete

If parents would like a traditional letter grade, please notify the teacher by week two of the class.

### **Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction Getting to know R.J. Palacio
<b>Week 2</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 3</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 4</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 6</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 7</b>	<i>Wonder</i>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 9</b>	<i>Wonder</i>
<b>Week 10</b>	Wrap Up Jeopardy