

## A Note from the English Department

On behalf of the English department, I would like to recommend that the paperback novels for the classes throughout the year be purchased through the MICDS Bookstore. If you choose not to purchase from the book store it would be helpful if you could purchase the same edition for consistent instructional purposes.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Packet 2018 – 2019

Welcome to 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts! My name is Mr. Thompson, and I am excited to begin a new school year with you in August. To get you prepared for the upcoming school year, I am asking you to complete some work over the summer. Hopefully you will find this work fun and engaging.

To keep things simple, I am asking you to read **two** books this summer. My hope is that the books you get to read will be so awesome that you will not even realize you are doing “work.”

#### Here is the breakdown:

1. Every 6<sup>th</sup> grader will read *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper. This is an amazing book about a protagonist named Melody and her experiences in middle school from a unique perspective.
2. Every 6<sup>th</sup> grade will then read **one** of the following books: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, *Counting by Sevens* by Holly Goldberg Sloan, or *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. All three of these books are exceptional, but I am only asking you to read **one** of them. Of course, you are welcome and encouraged to read all three, but your summer is your summer.
3. Every 6<sup>th</sup> grader will then write two paragraphs where they compare *Out of My Mind* with **one** of the other three choice books (*Wonder*, *Fish in a Tree*, or *Counting by Sevens*). In other words, every 6<sup>th</sup> grader will write a paragraph about how the stories are alike and a paragraph about how the stories differ. I have provided a graphic organizer should that help you organize your ideas.

#### Questions to consider as you draft your paragraphs(s):

- a. What do the lead characters have in common?
- b. In what ways do the lead characters differ?
- c. What do the two stories have in common? (characters, voice, organization, setting, themes...)
- d. What makes the two stories different? (characters, voice, organization, setting, themes...)

#### NOTE: I encourage you to use quotations from each book to support your points of comparison.

4. Every 6<sup>th</sup> grader will come to school in August with a printed copy of their comparison paragraphs to begin our first unit on empathetic reasoning as well as writing expectations for 6<sup>th</sup> grade at MICDS.
5. Every 6<sup>th</sup> grader should have a great summer vacation!

## Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer

*Book #1*

*Book #2*

**How are they ALIKE?**

**How are they DIFFERENT?**