



# JOSEPH KUSHNER HEBREW ACADEMY RAE KUSHNER YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL

## FIFTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS START NOVEL UNIT WITH THE BOOK WONDER

This week in Fifth Grade Language Arts, students started *Wonder* by RJ Palacio, the first novel of our novel unit. Our last unit focused on the elements of short stories (setting, characters, conflict, plot, and theme). We will work to expand on these elements in our study of *Wonder*. The novel tells the story of a fifth grade boy named Auggie who is quite different from others. Auggie has Treacher Collins syndrome, which makes him look very different. He faces challenges making friends, feeling confident, and finding his identity. Through reading this novel, students will learn the importance of family, standing up for those you love, and resisting the temptation to judge a book by its cover.

The students have been given a Novel Study Packet. This will be their survival guide throughout this unit. The packet contains chapter questions that will ensure comprehension. The packet is a wonderful tool, as it provides the students with several graphic organizers: Character Study charts, plot diagrams, a template for the creation of a postcard, and ample vocabulary practice. Since this novel contains such an inspirational story. I hope it leads to engaging in class discussions about the treatment of others, celebrating differences, and lots of laughs – the book is hilarious!

