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Friday, 3 March 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

From Term 2 this year, all students in Years 3-6 will be completing novel studies units based on the new NSW English syllabus. Texts will be purchased for each student and will form the basis of English instruction in classroom programs each term. Activities will include text analysis and comprehension, reading fluency, vocabulary instruction, drama, oral language and communication and creating written texts. Students will be exploring concepts such as context, character, theme and perspective. Other texts with similar themes will be supplemented to extend student thinking.

The following novels will be the focus of instruction in Term 2:

3F, 3/4N *The Twenty-Seventh Annual African Hippopotamus Race* by Morris Lurie

4/5M, 5P, 6M *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

These novels are part of the new syllabus scope and sequence and have been identified by NSW English syllabus experts to address the above listed content.

Research identifies personal connection to a text as an important factor for reading motivation, assisting students to identify themselves as readers. Motivated readers exert more cognitive effort while reading, which is crucial for developing higher order reading skills (McGeown & Ricketts, 2021). Students will therefore be using their own copy of class novels each term. Students will be encouraged to bring their own copy to and from school to complete home reading. The books will be taken home by students at the end of the unit.

The school has copies available for purchase via student invoice. Alternatively, if students already have a copy of the novel at home, they are welcome to use it instead. **Please indicate the option relevant to your child below and return the slip to classroom teachers as soon as possible**

You can assist your child by setting a regular reading time at home and checking in to see if they have read the required chapters for class. It is also valuable to ask your child for updates about what is happening in the story, how it makes them feel and what they are learning from character experiences.

We look forward to sharing our love of literature with our students.

Meghan Murray, Brad Newhouse, Jodie Watson, Tim Moreta, Jane Parish and Jim Fogarty

Hunters Hill Public School

PLEASE RETURN TO CLASSROOM TEACHERS BY FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2023

Student name: _____ Class: _____

- My child will purchase a copy of the novel via invoice
- My child will bring their own copy