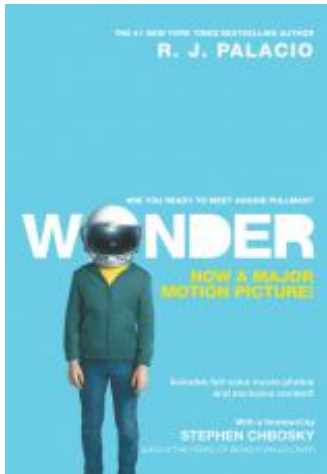


# Wonder

by R. J. Palacio

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## About the Book

**A special movie tie-in edition of R.J. Palacio's #1 *New York Times* bestseller, now a major motion picture starring Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay, Daveed Diggs and Mandy Patinkin.**

Over six million people have fallen in love with *WONDER* and Auggie Pullman, the ordinary boy with the extraordinary face, who inspired a movement to Choose Kind. This special movie tie-in edition features an eight-page full-color insert with photos from the film, a foreword by the director Stephen Chbosky, an afterword by R.J. Palacio, a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the movie with anecdotes from the cast and crew, and a family discussion guide.

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting fifth grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid --- but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *WONDER*, a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion and acceptance.

In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness" --- indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

## Discussion Guide

### Family Relationships

1. Discuss Auggie's relationship with each of his family members.
2. How does Via react to Auggie's deformity?
3. How is Via's life affected by Auggie's deformity?
4. Via says, "I'm always going to be the sister of a kid with a birth defect; that's not the issue. I just don't always want to be defined that way." What does she mean by this statement?
5. What did you think of Via's character? Did you empathize with her?
6. Do you think Via's own attitude towards her brother changes throughout the story?
7. How could her parents help Via's life be more normal even though Auggie's isn't?
8. What sacrifices does Via have to make in her relationship with her parents?
9. What qualities do Auggie's parents possess that help them to be good parents to Auggie?
10. How do respect and trust play a role in their family dynamics?

### **Friendship**

1. Discuss the characteristics of a good friend.
2. Which of Auggie's friends demonstrate these qualities?
3. What characteristics of a good friend does Auggie possess?
4. How does Auggie help his friends see him as an ordinary kid?
5. How does Auggie's ability to be comfortable in his own skin make it easier for his friends and family to relate to him?

### **Overcoming Challenges**

1. Auggie's attendance at Beecher Prep creates issues for students, parents, teachers and the principal. What are some of the challenges that arise?
2. How does each group of individuals overcome the challenges?
3. What role does Auggie play in either helping or hurting the situation?

4. What lessons are learned because of Auggie's attendance at the school?

5. In Mr. Tushman's speech at the end of the year, he shares this quote, "Always try to be a little kinder than necessary." How does being kind help someone overcome challenges?

### **Bullying**

1. Kids that are different are often bullied in some way. How does Auggie know the first time he meets Julian that he will be a bully? In what subtle ways does Julian bully Auggie?

2. What purpose does Julian have in bullying Jack? What power does Julian have to force the other students to join in his cruelty toward Auggie and Jack?

3. What prompts the seventh graders to attack and bully Auggie?

4. In general, what is Auggie's response to the bullying?

### **Betrayal**

1. Auggie and Jack are great friends; they laugh together, they talk about anything and everything, and they feel comfortable together. So why does Jack betray Auggie by talking badly behind his back?

2. How does Auggie feel when he hears what Jack has said?

3. At the same time Auggie is experiencing betrayal by his friend, Via is also feeling betrayed by her two best friends, Miranda and Ella. How do Miranda and Ella betray Via? What is Via's response?

4. How do Via and Auggie resolve their individual conflicts and cope with the pain of betrayal?

### **Author Bio**

R. J. Palacio lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband, two sons and two dogs (Bear and Beau). Her debut novel, WONDER, has been on the *New York Times* bestseller list since March 2012, and has sold over six million copies worldwide. The book's message of kindness has inspired the Choose Kind movement, and has been embraced by readers, young and old, around the world.

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