

# Wonder

Recommended for Grades 4-8

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## **Book Summary: Wonder**

Auggie was born with facial deformities and has become accustomed to people staring at him or running away. Having been homeschooled since he was young, his parents decide it is time for him to go to a traditional school. He agrees, but finds himself confronted with even more unkindness everyday where his classmates are too afraid to sit with him and no one wants to partner with him. He finds friends in Jack and Summer, who make an effort to become friends with him and discover that Auggie is more than what he looks like.

Julian, one of the popular kids, ringleads the other kids to bully Auggie and his friend, Jack, to the point where Jack hits him and gets suspended. Auggie relies on his friendship with Jack and comes to make a few other friends. Julian retaliates by beginning a war among the boys between his side and Jack's/Auggie's.

## **[SPOILER]**

On the last night of nature camp, Jack and Auggie are bullied by a group of seventh graders and saved by some of Julian's friends. When they return to school, Auggie is accepted by most of the other students and Julian has become unpopular. He is chosen as the recipient for the greatness award during fifth grade graduation.

## **Author Biography: R.J Palacio**

Raquel Jaramillo Palacio was born July 13, 1963 in New York City. She worked in the art departments of Scribner and St. Martin's Press before she became the creative director at Holt in 1990. For seventeen years, she designed book covers before switching to editorial work and becoming the director of children's books at Workman in 2006. Following the publication of her first book in 2012, she stepped down as director to become an editor-at-large.

*Wonder* is Raquel's first novel. It received several awards, which led Raquel to publishing two companion novels to the book. She continues to write books for youth. She lives in New York City with her husband and two sons.



Oswego Campus  
32 W Jefferson Street  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[www.oswego.lib.il.us](http://www.oswego.lib.il.us)

Montgomery Campus  
1111 Reading Drive  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
(630) 978-1272

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## Discussion Questions: Wonder

1. Auggie explains how people stare or run away when they see his face. Why does Auggie not describe himself in the story? How does this affect the reader's perception of him? How does this take away or add to the story?
  2. Auggie's parents finally agree to send him to school after his mom insists they can't keep protecting him from the other kids. Why was this a difficult decision for them to make? Do you think it was the right decision? Why or why not?
  3. Compare how Charlotte, Jack and Julian treated Auggie during the school tour. Who was the nicest? What evidence proved this? Which one did Auggie seem to like the most and why?
  4. Even though Auggie doesn't have the best first day, he realized he was going to like school as he was writing down Mr. Browne's precept: "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." What does this precept mean? Why does Auggie find it hopeful? How can you follow this precept in your own life?
  5. How does Halloween give Auggie freedom? Would it be a good or bad thing if he wore a mask all the time? Why?
  6. Via describes her family as planets in the solar system with Auggie as the sun. Why do you think she uses this analogy? How is Auggie like the sun? How has having Auggie in her life made her who she is today?
  7. The author writes the book in six different character viewpoints. Why does she write through the viewpoints of so many characters? How does this add to the story? Which viewpoint did you find the most surprising? Why? Which viewpoint was your favorite?
  8. Why did Jack decide to be Auggie's welcome buddy? Was this a good reason? Why or why not? What would be your reason for being or for not being a welcome buddy for Auggie?
  9. When Jack returns after winter break, he finds out about the war between the boys and how most of them are on Julian's side. Why do you think the war was started? Why are the girls not in the war? Which side is right? Why?
  10. In Miranda's chapter, she reveals that she avoided Via because of what happened at camp. Why did she lie about her family? Should she have told Via sooner? Why or why not? If she had told Via, how would their friendship be different?
  11. How did the events at camp change the way Auggie's classmates saw him?
  12. Why did Auggie win the Henry Ward Beecher medal? Did he deserve it? Why or why not?
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