PRAISE

"I believe without hesitation that every middle-grade classroom in America should have a copy of R. J. Palacio’s Wonder."—Colby Sharp, fourth grade teacher

"[Wonder] will lead to amazing discussions in classrooms about Auggie’s courage, the need for kindness, and the fact that bravery can take many forms."—Katherine Sokolowski, fifth grade teacher

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ "A great discussion starter about love, support, and judging people on their appearance. A well written, thought-provoking book."—School Library Journal, Starred

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ "A memorable story of kindness, courage and wonder."—Kirkus Reviews, Starred

IN THE COMMUNITY

It’s rare to come across a middle-grade book with writing powerful enough to make both adults and young readers see the world differently. Wonder, by R.J. Palacio is such a book. It has reached over 1 million readers and counting, and every day is adopted by more classrooms, schools, and communities all eager to choose kind and help spread the wonder of wonder.

When reading Wonder, you see what it is like not only to be Auggie, but to be his parent, his sibling, his teacher, his classmate, and finally his friend. Wonder is truly the portrait of and tribute to a community.

After you have gotten to know Wonder, we hope you will consider sharing Auggie’s story and introduce him to the people of your town by setting up a community-wide reading.

Here are some tips on how to set up a community-wide reading of Wonder:

• The American Library Association has created a guide on how to set up a community reads event. Use this document as a guide on how to budget for, plan, fundraise, and advertise a Wonder community read campaign.

• R.J. Palacio is part of the Random House Speakers Bureau. If you think your community event would benefit from an author visit, please see http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/speakers bureau/polacio/ to inquire about hosting Raquel and to find more information on the book.

• Have members of your community sign the pledge to choose kind here: http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/choose-kind/pledge.php

• Visit: http://choosekind.tumblr.com/ to resources in determined images that can be shared on social media when marketing your event.

• Public libraries and independent bookstores are a natural and great fit in marketing community reads events and distributing promotional materials. Below please find a list of possible program partners you might approach in your community:

  Theater Companies  Art Galleries
  Museums  Reader’s Theater Ensembles
  Literary Organizations  Local Businesses
  Minority Group Associations  City Council
  Elected officials (i.e., state and U.S.
  representatives/senators) Media
  Area business owners  Local clergy

• Are you a part of the Wonder of Wonder Project?

HERE IS WHERE WONDER HAS BEEN SPOTTED!

The students at Rossville Consolidated Schools in Rossville, Indiana, had a birthday party for Auggie on October 10. They were instructed to write only their name on a blue affirmation sheet that read "_________ is a wonder because . . . . "

After singing and cake, the classes gave each other standing ovations. Next, the students taped their affirmation sheets on their backs and took turns writing why each of their classmates is "a wonder".

Read more about the celebration at http://choosekind.tumblr.com/2013/01/31/also-reading-the-wonders-of-wonder-by-sherry-gick

You can’t blend in when you were born to stand out.
WONDER

IN THE CLASSROOM

ABOUT THE BOOK

After being home-schooled for four years, Auggie, who suffers from a severely deformed face, enters the fifth grade at Beecher Preparatory School and deals his best to be just an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face.

The first few days of school are more than difficult. Try as he might to ignore them, Auggie must endure the stares and whispers—almost the cruel game, “The Plague,” where everyone is afraid to touch him. Julian especially causes Auggie’s days to be miserable, making references about Auggie’s face and veiled threats to harm him. The flip side is that Auggie has the steadfast support of his first friend, Summer, and his best friend, Jack, and his teachers and the principal like him. But for every positive, there is a negative. Jack betrays him, a gang of kids try to hurt him, and even some particularly insensitive parents try to have him removed from the school. Yet, Auggie shows amazing understanding and compassion. As the school year progresses, Auggie learns that, though there will always be people who want to taunt him and make his life miserable, there are others who love him, friends despite his look. The wonder of Auggie’s extraordinarily unique presence is that it is people around him who recognize his happiness. Have students read their poems and then to write a poem in two voices: one friend, Via is also feeling betrayed by Auggie. How do respect and how does being kind help someone overcome challenges?

BULLYING: Kids that are different are almost always 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 Juli
nen bullying Jack? What power does Julian have to incentive the other students to join in his cruelty toward Auggie and Jack? How do the bullies grade with Jack? In general, what is Auggie’s response to the bullying?

FRIENDSHIP:—Discuss the characteristics of a good friend. Which of Auggie’s friends demonstrate these qualities? What characteristics of a good friend does Auggie possess? How does Auggie help his friends see him as an ordinary kid?

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES:—Auggie’s attendance at Beecher Prep creates issues for students, parents, teachers, and the principal. What are some of the challenges that arise? How does each group of individuals overcome the challenges? What role does Auggie play in either helping or hurting the situation? What lessons are learned about Auggie’s attendance at the school? In Mr. Tushman’s speech at the end of the year, he shares his message, “Always try to be a little kinder than necessary.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

R. J. PALACIO lives in NYC with her husband, two sons, and two dogs. For more than twenty years, she was an art director and graphic designer, designing book jackets for other people while waiting for the perfect time to write her own novel. But one day several years ago, a chance encounter with an extraordinary child in front of an ice cream store made R. J. realize that the perfect time to write a novel has to come. Wonder is her first novel. She did not design the cover, but she sure does love it.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Give the class an overview of Treacher-Collins Syndrome using information from the following websites:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11920562

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS—Discuss Auggie’s relationship with each of his family members. How does Via react to Auggie’s deformity? How is Via’s life affected by Auggie’s deformity? She says, “I’m always going to be the sister of a kid with a face that’s not the issue. I just don’t always want to be defined that way.” (p. 91) Why can’t Via use this statement to define herself? How could her parents help Via’s life be more normal even though Via’s sort? What sacrifices does Via make in her relationship with her parents? What qualities do Auggie’s parents possess that help them to be good parents to Auggie? How do respect and trust play a role in their family dynamics?

FRIENDSHIP—Discuss the characteristics of a good friend. Which of Auggie’s friends demonstrate these qualities? What characteristics of a good friend does Auggie possess? How does Auggie help his friends see him as an ordinary kid?

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SCHOOL SOCIALS—Mr. Brown’s monthly prequel helps students to see outside their world and to think about their beliefs. Mr. Brown’s definition of a prequel is anything that helps guide you when making important decisions. Ask students in brainstorm prequels that could be applicable to all students in their school to pass on to a later, kinder class to be. Ask students to work in pairs and then choose one prequel for which they can create a visual illustrating its concept. Post the prequel posters in all common areas of the school.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS—Auggie says, “I felt very sad and angry to be happy at the exact same time, kind of like that laughing-crying feeling.” (p. 33) Most everyone who views a prequel will experience a moment of simulation. Ask students to select a partner and then to write a poem in two voices: one voice expressing Auggie’s sadness at various points of the story and the other voice expressing his happiness. Have students read their poems to the class.

INTERNET RESOURCES

CHOOSE KIND

Inspired by Wonder, this anti-bullying initiative encourages young readers to share their story and pledge to choose kind in their school and community.

BULLYING: WHAT YOU CAN DO


CHILDREN AND PET LOSS

www.eccememorialpetcare.com/children-pet-loss-article.htm

VOCABULARY/ USE OF LANGUAGE

To help the reader make connections with Auggie and his life, the author uses allusions to the stories of Oz, Star Wars, and the Auggie Doggs cartoons. Ask students working in small groups to brainstorm other allusions that would help convey Auggie’s situation and then to write their best allusions on four sentence strips. Have each group swap allusions with another group and then the class connect the allusions by applying it to Auggie and his situation.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Discuss how kids that are different are almost always bullied in some way. How does Via react to Auggie’s deformity? How is Via’s life affected by Auggie’s deformity? She says, “I’m always going to be the sister of a kid with a face that’s not the issue. I just don’t always want to be defined that way.” (p. 91) Why can’t Via use this statement to define herself? What sacrifices does Via make in her relationship with her parents? What qualities do Auggie’s parents possess that help them to be good parents to Auggie? How do respect and trust play a role in their family dynamics?

USE OF LANGUAGE

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POST DISCUSSION comments along with allusion steps.

EXTRAS

Extraworks.com/Centura/State Standards/Standards Alignments and Ons 3.3

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002624

BULLYING

SHARE AN EXAMPLE FROM THE BOOK TO SUPPORT YOUR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR GROUP

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

BULLYING

TO HELP THE SCHOOL

* chants: Auggie’s de

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Kids that are different are almost Star Wars

Break the class into small groups

The Wonderful Wizard

PALACIO

Mr. Browne’s monthly precept

learn what it is to be kind and to be courageous.

unique presence is that the people around him

looks. The wonder of Auggie’s extraordinarily

people who want to taunt him and make his life

Auggie learns that, though there will always be

Yet, Auggie shows amazing understanding and

even try to have him removed from the school.

Jack betrays him, a gang of kids try to hurt

in the first few days of school are more than diffi-

extraordinary face.

the fifth grade at Beecher Prep School and

who suffers from a severely deformed face, enters

the first time he meets Julian that he

How does Via mean by this statement? How

does Via react to Auggie’s deformity? How is Via’s

tionship with each of his family members. How

with her parents? What qualities do

feel when he hears what Jack has said? At the

Auggie’s parents possess that help

of the story and the other voice expressing

points of the story and the other voice expressing

to join in his cruelty toward Auggie

know the first time he meets Julian that he

BULLYING

friend. Which of Auggie’s

How does Auggie’s ability to be com-

friends see him as an ordinary kid?

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OVERCOMING CHALLENGES—Auggie’s atten-

dance at Beecher Prep creates issues for students,

What does Via say to Auggie? What does

Auggie and his situation.

INTERNET RESOURCES

CHOOSE KIND

Inspired by Wonder, this anti-bullying initiative encourages young readers

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BULLYING: WHAT YOU CAN DO

www.stopbullying.gov/tackl-bull-dc.html

KIDS AND PET LOSS

www.eecommemorialpawcare.com/children-pet-loss-article.html

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

R. J. PALACIO

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and graphic designer, designing beer

jackets for other people while waiting for the perfect time

in her life to start writing her own novel. But

day one or two years ago, a chance encounter

with an extraordinary child in front of an ice

cream store made R. J. realize that the

perfect time to write was already, simply

come. Wonder is her first novel. She did not design

the cover, but she sure does love it.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Wonder

IN THE CLASSROOM

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Give the class an overview of Treacher-Collins Syndrome using information from the
founding website

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23036254

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS—Discuss Auggie’s rela-

tionship with each of his family members. How does

Via react to Auggie’s deformity? How is Via’s

life affected by Auggie’s deformity? She says,

“I’m always going to be the sister of a kid with a

severely deformed face. That’s not an issue, but

just don’t always want to be defined that way.” (p. 91)

How could her parents help Via’s life be more

remal even though Auggie’s isn’t? What sacrifices
does Via have to make in her relationship with

her parents? What qualities do Auggie’s parents possess that help their son be good parents to

Auggie? How do respect and trust factor in their family dynamics?

FRIENDSHIP—Discuss the characteristics of a good friend. Which of Auggie’s
description as good friend of what Via possesses that

friends share their story and pledge to choose kind in their school and community.

Auggie and his situation.

SOCIAL STUDIES—Mr. Browne’s monthly precept

helps students see in outside their world and to

to think about their beliefs. Mr. Browne’s

definition of a precept is anything that helps
guide you when making important decisions. Ask

students to brainstorm precepts that could be

applicable to all students in their school to

post in a safe, visible location for

ask students to work in pairs and then choose one

precept for which they create a poster

illustrating its concept. Post the precept posters in all common areas of the school.

What are the challenges that Auggie’s family faces?

CONNECTIONS

To help the reader make connections with Auggie and his life, the author uses allusions

to The Plague by Albert Camus. Albert Camus is a

to the class.

Have students present their

projects to other classrooms

or media presentation, a

PowerPoint or other

cartoons. Ask students working in

small groups to brainstorm

other allusions that would

help convey Auggie’s situ-

cation and then to write

their best allusions on four sentence strips.

Have each group swap allusions and make

discussion comments.

PUT INTO PRACTICE

Students can portray by illustrating the scene, creating a

diagram, or writing a story or poem. Have them give a

brief presentation of the results of their

project to the class.

Create an allusion bulletin board with

allusions to The Plague together with other selected

cartoons. Ask students working in

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discussion comments.
Kids that are different are almost
In small groups or with a partner,
Star Wars
Auggie     says, “I felt very
Star Wars
Discuss the
Break the class into small groups
learn what it is to be kind and to be courageous.
Auggie learns that, though there will always be
compassion. As the school year progresses,
even try to have him removed from the school.
Jack betrays him, a gang of kids try to hurt
him. But for every positive, there is a negative:
of his fi  rst friend, Summer, and his best friend,
endure the looks and whispers—even the cruel
The fi  rst few days of school are more than diffi  -
challenges? What role does Auggie play in either
ABOUT THE BOOK
PHOTO BY RUSSELL GORDON
PHOTO BY RUSSELL GORDON
one day several years ago, a chance encounter
graphic designer, designing book jackets for
husband, two sons, and two dogs. For more
is her fi  rst novel. She did not design
GLB: 978-0-375-96902-7
Grades 3–7
QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS—Discuss Auggie’s rela-
tionship with each of his family members. How
does Via react to Auggie’s deformity? How
Vica life affected by Auggie’s deformity? She says,
“I’ve always been the sister of a kid with a
a thing that’s not the issue; just don’t
always want to be defined that way.” (p. 91)
How could her parents help Vica’s life be more remmal
even though Auggie’s isn’t? What sacrifices
do his parents have to make in her relationship
with her parents? What qualities do
Auggie’s parents possess that help them
to be good parents to
Auggie? How do respect and
friendship—discuss the relationship of a good friend.
Which of Auggie’s
does these characteristics of a good friend does Auggie
possesses? How does Auggie help his
friends see him as an ordinary kid?
How does Auggie’s ability to be com-
friendly and treat everyone in his family
dynamically
PHOTO BY RUSSELL GORDON
PHOTO BY RUSSELL GORDON
Newton, Mass. This unique picture book
about a boy with craniofacial differences
Grosset & Dunlop. For more
R. J.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
LIVES IN NYC WITH HER
WIVES, TWO SONS, AND TWO DOGS. FOR
MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, SHE WAS AN ART DIRECTOR AND
PHOTOGRAPHER, DESIGNING BEAUTY JOURNALS FOR OTHER PEOPLE WHILE WAITING FOR THE PERFECT
TIME IN HER LIFE TO START WRITING HER OWN NOVEL. BUT
ONE DAY SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH
AN EXTREME CHILDREN IN FRONT OF AN ICE
CREAM STORE MADE R. J. REALIZE THAT THE PERFECT
TIME TO WRITE HER FIRST NOVEL HAD AT LAST
COME. WONDER IS HER FIRST NOVEL. SHE DID NOT DESIGN
THE COVER, BUT SHE SURE DOES LOVE IT.
PRE-READING ACTIVITY
Give the class an overview of Treacher-Collins Syndrome using information from the following websites:
www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002624
1. Give the class an overview of Treacher-Collins Syndrome
2. Ask students to brainstorm any questions they might have about the syndrome.
3. Have students work in small groups to discuss their questions and possible answers.
4. Encourage students to report back to the class with their findings.

CONNECTIONS
To the help reader make connections with Auggie and his life, the author uses allusions to
myth, fairy tale, and science fiction literature. For example, she uses references to
Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Star Wars, and the Augie Doggie
cartoons. Ask students working in small groups to brainstorm other allusions that would
help convey Auggie’s situation and then write their best allusions on
four sentence strips.
5. Have each group swap allusions with another group and discuss how the allusions apply to
Auggie and his situation.
6. Post discussion comments along with allusions strips around the classroom.
7. Encourage students to choose the best allusions for their research:
8. Have students present their projects to other classrooms
and schools in the district to start open discussion on this and other childhood diseases.

INFORMATION RESOURCES
CHOOSE KIND
- www.choosekind.tumblr.com
- inspired by Wonder, this anti-bullying initiative encourages young readers
- to share their story and pledge to choose kind in their school and community.

BULLYING: WHAT YOU CAN DO
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CHILDREN AND PET LOSS
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After singing and cake, the classes gave each other standing ovations. Next, the students taped their affirmation sheets on their backs and took turns writing why each of their classmates is “a wonder.”

Read more about the celebration at http://bookclub.wordpress.com/2012/10/26/celebrating-the-wonder-of-wonder-by-sherry-gick/

The students at Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Connecticut, created a “Pit of amazing discussions in classrooms—Kirkus Reviews” that you see what it is like has created about Auggie’s Katherine Sokolowski. If you think your you might, had a birthday

The American Library Association community-wide reading of Wonder is truly the portrait of and, by R.J. Palacio is such a middle-grade book, we hope, that every middle-grade classroom in America every day is adapted by more classrooms, schools, and communities all eager to choose kind and help spread the wonder of wonder.

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Letters to author R. J. Palacio

R.J. Palacio is part of the Random House Speakers Bureau. If you think your community event would benefit from an author visit, please see https://www. randomhouse.com/kids/choose-kind/pledge.php

Public libraries and independent bookstores are a natural and great fit in marketing community reads events and distributing promotional materials. Below please find a list of possible program partners you might approach in your community:

Theater Companies • Art Galleries • Museums • Reader’s Theater Ensembles • Local Businesses • Minority Group Associations • City Council • Elected officials (i.e., state and U.S. representatives/seasators) • Media • Area business owners • Local clergy

PRAISE

“[Wonder] will lead to amazing discussions in classrooms about Auggie’s courage, the need for kindness, and the fact that bravery can take many forms.”
—Colby Sharp, fourth grade teacher

“A great discussion starter about love, support, and judging people on their appearance. A well-written, thought-provoking book.”—School Library Journal, Starred

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Auggie’s story and classmates “is a wonder”. Each student taped their affirmation sheets on their backs and took turns writing why each of their classmates is “a wonder.”

Read more about the celebration at http://bookclub.wordpress.com/2012/10/26/celebrating-the-wonder-of-wonder-by-sherry-gick/

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- Local Businesses
- Minority Group Associations
- City Council
- Elected officials (i.e., state and U.S. representatives/senators)
- Media
- Area business owners
- Local clergy

Inquire about hosting Raquel and to find an author visit, please see http://www.rhspeakers.com/speaker/r-j-palacio/

Resources to download images that can be shared on social media when marketing your event:

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