“When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.”
—Dr. Wayne W. Dyer
In Wonder, readers were introduced to memorable English teacher Mr. Browne and his love of precepts. Simply put, precepts are principles to live by, and Mr. Browne has compiled 365 of them—one for each day of the year—drawn from popular songs to children’s books to inscriptions on Egyptian tombs to fortune cookies. His selections celebrate kindness, hopefulness, the goodness of human beings, the strength of people’s hearts, and the power of people’s wills. Interspersed with the precepts are letters and emails from characters who appeared in Wonder. Readers hear from Summer, Jack, Charlotte, Julian, and Amos.

There’s something for everyone here, with words of wisdom from such noteworthy people as Anne Frank, Martin Luther King Jr., Confucius, Goethe, Sappho—and over 100 readers of Wonder who sent R. J. Palacio their own precepts.

This brand new, exclusive chapter from Wonder will finally reveal the bully’s side of the story. Why is Julian so unkind to Auggie? And does he have a chance for redemption?
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- **Reading**
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### Precept to Explore

When given the choice between being right or being kind, **choose kind**.

—Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

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#theWonderofWonder
choos kind.tumblr.com
Mr. Browne’s monthly precept helps students to see outside their world and 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 make it a safer, kinder place to be. 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.

#theWonderofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
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Precept to Explore

Have no friends not equal to yourself.
—Confucius
Back to School

Full of mixed impressions, changing views, and lessons on change, *Wonder* is the perfect book to share with students at the beginning of the school year to encourage respect and kindness in your classroom. Each character experiences this shift in thinking and feeling differently. Start a conversation about first impressions, beginning something new, getting to know someone, and adapting to a new school, new home, or new sibling. Pose the following questions as class discussions, writing prompts, etc.:

- What characteristics form a first impression?
- Has your first impression ever been wrong?
- How did you come to realize it and did you do anything to change your view?

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**September**

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Talking About 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? How does Auggie’s ability to be comfortable in his own skin make it easier for his friends and family to relate to him? Share examples from the book to support your responses.
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- **September**
- ChooseKind.Tumblr.com

**Give someone a standing ovation.**

#TheWondrousOfWonder
Choosekind.tumblr.com
### October

#### Week of ________________

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**Precept to Explore**

*No man is an island, entire of itself.*

—John Donne

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#theWonderofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
## October

**Week of ________________**

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## October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Use *Wonder* as the anchor for a conversation about bullying in your classroom.

- Have students take the pledge to [choosekind](http://choosekind.tumblr.com).
- Compare and contrast incidences of bullying and incidences of kindness in *Wonder*.
- Have students work together to create a public-service announcement for your school.
- Publish, film, or blog about a collection of your students’ precepts.

#theWonderofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
**Talking About 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 Julian bully Auggie? 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? What prompts the seventh graders to attack and bully Auggie? In general, what is Auggie’s response to the bullying? How does being kind help someone overcome challenges?
### October

**Choose Kind CHALLENGE**

Listen without distraction to your friends and family members.

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Reading | Writing | Spelling | Math | Science | Social Studies |

Precept to Explore
Kind words do not cost much.
Yet they accomplish much.
—Blaise Pascal

#theWonderofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
Discuss Auggie’s relationship with each of his family members. How does Via react to Auggie’s facial difference? How is her life affected by how Auggie looks? She 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.” (p. 91) What does Via mean by this statement? How could her parents help Via’s life be more normal 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 them to be good parents to Auggie? How do respect and trust play a role in their family dynamics?
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 because of Auggie’s attendance at the school? 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?
November

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**Week of _______________**

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**Choose Kind Challenge**

Stick up for a friend who is being mistreated.

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choosekind.tumblr.com
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**Precept to Explore**

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you ever can.  
—John Wesley’s Rule

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#theWonderofWonder  
chooskind.tumblr.com
Tis the Season to choose kind!

Spread cheer and celebrate the act of kindness by:

- Hosting a food drive, bake sale, or collecting gifts for children in need
- Volunteering as a class at a local nursing home and/or after-school programs

‘Tis the Season to choose kind!
### December

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Choose kind

CHALLENGE

Look for the best qualities in the people you know.
Your deeds are your monuments.
—inscription on an Egyptian tomb

Precept to Explore

Precept

Precept

Precept

— Precept

— Precept

— Precept

— Precept

#theWonderofWonder
choosetokind.tumblr.com
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Auggie’s story highlights the power of one—one individual, one act of kindness, and the power of paying forward. How did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. inspire kindness in his message of civil rights? Who else emulated these values? How will the students and the class as a whole choose kind this year?

#theWondersOfWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
### Talking About Betrayal

Auggie and Jack are great friends; they laugh together, they talk about anything and everything, and they feel comfortable with one another. So why does Jack betray Auggie by talking badly behind his back? How does Auggie feel when he hears what Jack has said? 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? How do Via and Auggie resolve their individual conflicts and cope with the pain of betrayal?

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**CHALLENGE**

Say hello to someone at school who isn’t your friend.
### February

#### Precept to Explore

*Audentes fortuna iuvat.*
(Fortune favors the bold.)

—Virgil

#### Weekly Planner

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#theWondersOfWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
Talking About Peer Pressure

Who are Auggie’s allies in *Wonder*? How do Auggie’s friends, family, and teachers stand up for him? Did peer pressure have an impact on bullying in *Wonder*? Give examples of students standing up to peer pressure? Give examples of students giving in to peer pressure. Do you believe that kindness can win out over bullying?

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#theWondrofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
# Talking About Stereotyping

What examples of stereotyping caught your attention in *Wonder*? What examples of labels and stereotypes do you witness in school? What examples of stereotypes do you witness in literature and media?
### February

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**choose kind CHALLENGE**

Write a thank-you note to someone who has done something nice for you.

#theWondersOfWonder choosekind.tumblr.com
Precept to Explore

It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.
—James Thurber

#theWondereOfWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com

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It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.
—James Thurber
### March

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### Talking About Social Status

What was Auggie’s social status at the beginning of *Wonder*? What factors determined Auggie’s social status at Beecher Prep? As classmates got to know Auggie, what character traits were valued? How did Auggie change his social status in the story? How did Auggie change the social dynamics at Beecher Prep?

#theWonderofWonder
chooskind.tumblr.com
To help the reader make connections with Auggie and his life, the author uses allusions 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 to write their best allusions on four sentence strips. Have each group swap allusions with another group and discuss how the allusions apply to Auggie and his situation. Post discussion comments along with allusion strips around the classroom.
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**March**

Week of ________________

#choosekind

**CHALLENGE**

Give someone a compliment.

#theWondertoWonder
chooskind.tumblr.com
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Precept to Explore

What is beautiful is good, and who is good will soon be beautiful.

—Sappho

#theWonderofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
Using the precepts from *Wonder* as a guide, write your own in the form of a haiku or cinquain.

- **Haiku** is a form of Japanese poetry that reflects on nature and feelings. Use your observation skills to write what you learned from Auggie, Summer, and the characters in *Wonder*. There are three lines to a haiku, with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second, and five syllables in the third.

- **Cinquains** have five lines
  Line 1: Title (noun) – 1 word
  Line 2: Description – 2 words
  Line 3: Action – 3 words
  Line 4: Feeling (phrase) – 4 words
  Line 5: Title (synonym for the title) – 1 word

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Auggie says, “I felt very sad and a tiny bit happy at the exact same time, kind of like that laughing-crying feeling.” (p. 33) Most everyone has experienced this juxtaposition of emotions. 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.
Hold the door for a stranger.
#theWondersOfWonder
chooskind.tumblr.com

Precept to Explore

Just follow the day and reach for the sun!
—The Polyphonic Spree, “Light and Day”

### May

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#theWondersOfWonder
chooskind.tumblr.com
## Science Connection

Break the class into small groups to investigate Treacher Collins syndrome, answering questions about the causes, the treatment, the life expectancy, and the genetic makeup of the syndrome. Have students determine and explain why Auggie’s case was so unusual and severe. Then have each group select an extension project to spotlight their research: a classroom display, a PowerPoint or other media presentation, a nonfiction book, or an informational brochure.
**Fine Arts Connection**

In small groups or with a partner, ask students to find an occurrence in the book they can portray by illustrating the scene, creating a music montage to accompany an oral reading, or writing and performing the scene. Have students display or present their resulting projects to the class.

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### May

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choosekind.tumblr.com
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**CHALLENGE**

Call a family member whom you haven’t talked to in a while.
Precept to Explore

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”
—Anne Frank

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Week of __________________
Graduation

Tie the theme of **choosekind** to your year-end reflection and ask students to share deeds and moments that stood out this year.

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#theWondrofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
### June

**Week of _______________**

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**Choose Kind Challenge**

Treat your teachers with respect.

#theWonderofWonder
choosekind.tumblr.com
Information for Substitute Teachers

Daily Schedule
- School Starts
- Lunch
- School Ends

Support Classes
- Specials
- Time

Special Instructions

Specials
- Art
- Gym
- Library
- Music

Allergies or Medications
- Name/Allergy/Condition
- Emergency Procedures/Instructions

Emergency Substitute Plans are located
Seating

Teachers: Use this space to draw your seating chart
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 a tribute to, a community.

After you have gotten to know Wonder, we hope you will consider sharing Auggie’s story and will 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, fund-raise, and advertise a Wonder community-reads campaign: http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/ppo/programming/onebook/files/onebookguide.pdf

• 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.rhspeakers.com/speaker/r-j-palacio/ 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/resources to download 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
  - Literacy Organizations
  - Local Businesses
  - Minority Group Associations
  - City Council
  - Elected Officials (i.e., State and U.S. Representatives/Senators)
  - Media
  - Area Business Owners
  - Local Clergy

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

★ “It’s a rare story with the power to open eyes—and hearts—to what it’s like to be singled out for a difference you can’t control, when all you want is to be just another face in the crowd.”—Publishers Weekly, Starred

★ “Kids’ books about befriending somebody ‘different’ could fill a library. But this debut novel rises to the top.”—Booklist, Starred
HERE IS WHERE WONDER HAS BEEN SPOTTED!

The students at Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Connecticut, created a “Pit of Wonder” to help their students talk about friendship and kindness! Read more about the project at bit.ly/1gmXi2i

Paris Elementary School in South Paris, Maine
Choose Kind Before You Enter!

Letters to author R. J. Palacio

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 nerdybook-club.wordpress.com/2012/10/26/celebrating-the-wonder-of-wonder-by-sherry-gick
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Rob Buyea
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HC: 978-0-385-73882-8
EL: 978-0-375-89615-6

Twerp
Mark Goldblatt
Grades 4-7
PB: 978-0-375-97145-7
HC: 978-0-375-97142-6
GLB: 978-0-375-97143-3
EL: 978-0-375-97144-0

Holes
Louis Sachar
Grades 4-7
PB: 978-0-440-41480-3
EL: 978-0-307-79836-7

Mr. Terupt Falls Again
Rob Buyea
Grades 4-7
PB: 978-0-307-93046-0
HC: 978-0-385-74205-4
GLB: 978-0-375-99038-0
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Jennifer L. Holm
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Rebecca Stead
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HC: 978-0-385-73743-2
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GLB: 978-0-375-99058-8
EL: 978-0-307-97505-8

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Jerry Spinelli
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Moon Over Manifest
Clare Vanderpool
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PB: 978-0-375-85829-1
HC: 978-0-385-73883-5
EL: 978-0-375-89616-3

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