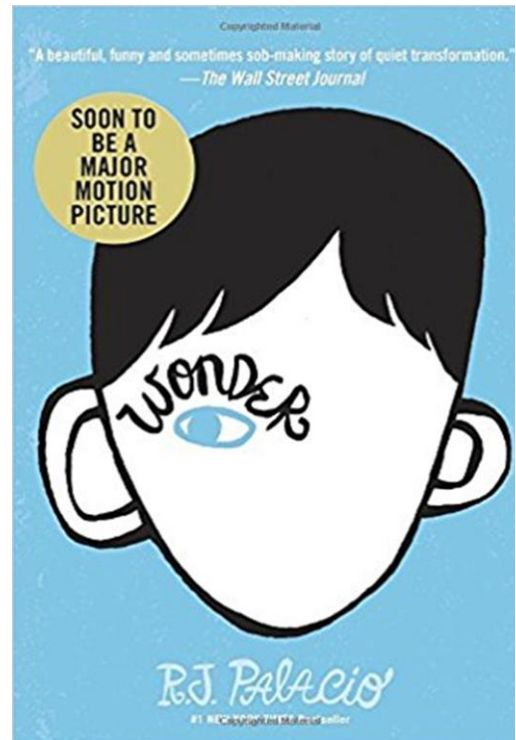


## Wonder by R.J. Palacio (Knopf, 2012)

*10-year old Auggie Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school – until now. Auggie sees himself as an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face, but can he convince his 5<sup>th</sup> grade classmates that he’s just like them, despite appearances?*



1. When Auggie was born and everyone was shocked by his appearance, but his mother said “When she looked down into my tiny mashed up face for the first time, all she could see was how pretty my eyes were. Why did his mother focus on Auggie’s eyes instead of his face?
2. 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? What power does Julian have to force the other students to join in his cruelty toward Auggie?
3. So why does Jack betray Auggie by talking badly behind his back on Halloween? How does Auggie feel when he hears what Jack has said? What motivates Jack to become friends with Auggie again?
4. Why do you think Summer decided to sit beside Augie in the lunchroom when no one else would?
5. How does Auggie help his friends see him as an ordinary kid?
6. At the same time Auggie is experiencing betrayal by his friend Jack, 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?
7. This novel is told from varying points of view. 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 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?
8. Why doesn’t Via tell her parents that there is a play at school? Why does Miranda pretend to be sick so Via, the understudy, could play the role?
9. Why does Augie not want to take his star Wars duffle to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade nature retreat? In what other ways does Augie change during his 5<sup>th</sup> grade year?

10. Why did Amos, Miles and Henry come to the rescue of Jack and Auggie when they were attacked by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade thugs at the movie night?
11. After the class returned from the Nature retreat, Auggie says “there was a big shift in the way things were. A monumental shift. A seismic shift. Maybe even a cosmic shift.” What was the shift and how did it happen?
12. 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?
13. Before he gives out the Henry Ward Beecher medal, Mr. Tushman quotes from Beecher saying, “Greatness lies not in being strong, but in right using of strength... He is the greatest whose strength carries up the most hearts...” What do you think he meant by this?
14. Do you think Auggie deserved to be awarded the Henry Ward Beecher metal?

Several of the above questions were adapted from the Classroom & Community Reads Guide published by Random House. Other questions prepared by Caroline Ward, Coordinator, Youth Services, the Ferguson Library.