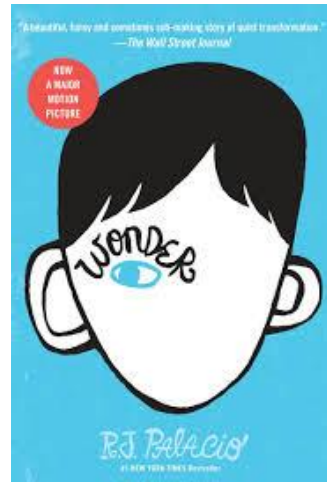


Wonder



ISBN-13	978-0-375-86902-0
Author	R.J. Palacio
Publisher	Alfred A. Knopf
Copyright	2012
Lexile	790L
Genre	Fiction
Synopsis	Ten-year-old August Pullman was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive. As he goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates and struggles to fit in.
Themes	Caring; Friendship; Kindness; Courage; Personal Growth

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 1



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 3

"I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go."

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

At the end of this unit, you will write a persuasive essay about the central message, or messages, of *Wonder*. You are encouraged to use evidence from the text, personal experiences, and external examples to support your claims.

Each lesson in this unit will culminate in a writing prompt that will explore possible themes. You may choose to use these assignments in your final essay, but it is not required.

Today's prompt is as follows:

What does it mean to be an ordinary kid? Do you agree with Auggie when he says that the "only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way?" (pg. 3). Why or why not.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 2



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 65

"YOUR DEEDS ARE YOUR MONUMENTS... This precept means that we should be remembered for the things we do. The things we do are the most important things of all. They are more important than what we say or what we look like. The things we do outlast our mortality. The things we do are like monuments that people build to honor heroes after they've died. They're like the pyramids that the Egyptians built to honor the pharaohs. Only instead of being made of stone, they're made out of the memories people have of you. That's why your deeds are like your monuments. Built with memories instead of stone."

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

Write one paragraph about why people might reject others who are different from them. You are encouraged to use evidence from the text, personal experiences, and other resources to support your opinions.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 3



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key paragraph, p. 109

“Auggie really wanted to be a Star Wars character called Boba Fett, so Mom looked for a Boba Fett costume in Auggie’s size, which, strangely enough, was out of stock everywhere. She went to every online store, found a few on eBay that were going for an outrageous amount, and finally ended up buying a Jango Fett costume that she then converted into a Boba Fett costume by painting it green. I would say, all in all, she must have spent two weeks working on the stupid costume. And no, I won’t mention the fact that Mom has never made any of my costumes, because it really has no bearing on anything at all.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

Why does the author retell some of the same story events from another character’s perspective? Write one paragraph about whether or not the shift in perspective from August to Via changes your understanding of the story. You are encouraged to use evidence from the text, personal experiences, and external examples to support your claims.

Consider the following: How do Via’s character descriptions compare or contrast with August’s? What does she add to key events, like the first day of school and Halloween?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 4



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 120

“I should say that I don’t really feel sorry for him anymore. That might have been what made me sit down with him the first time, but it’s not why I keep sitting down with him. I keep sitting down with him because he’s fun.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

Charlotte is nice to Auggie, but Summer is kind to him. What is the difference between being nice and being kind? Write one paragraph about the courage it took for Summer to demonstrate kindness. You are encouraged to use evidence from the text, personal experiences, and external examples to support your claims.

Consider the following: Is it difficult not to go along with excluding someone when others are?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 5



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 141

“So, here’s why I changed my mind. It wasn’t so I wouldn’t have to hear Mom give me a whole lecture. And it wasn’t to protect this Auggie kid from Julian, who I knew would be a jerk about the whole thing. It was because when I heard Jamie talking about how he had run away from Auggie going ‘Ahhh,’ I suddenly felt really bad. The thing is, there are always going to be kids like Julian who are jerks. But if a little kid like Jamie, who’s usually a nice enough kid, can be that mean, then a kid like Auggie doesn’t stand a chance in middle school.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

In the beginning of the novel, Jack is described as a well-liked and popular student. In this section, his actions result in him being socially excluded by people that he had considered friends. Do you think social exclusion is a form of bullying, even if it doesn’t involve physical harm? Write a paragraph to express your opinion, and support your claims with evidence from the text, personal experiences, or external examples.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 6



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 204

“...the universe was not kind to auggie pullman. what did that little kid ever do to deserve his sentence? ... you purchase a ticket when you're born. and it's all just random whether you get a good ticket or a bad ticket. it's all just luck...no,no, it's not all random, if it really was all random, the universe would abandon us completely and the universe doesn't. it takes care of its most fragile creations in ways we can't see. like with parents who adore you blindly. and a big sister who feels guilty for being human over you. and a little gravelly-voiced kid whose friends have left him over you. and even a pink-haired girl who carries your picture in her wallet. maybe it is a lottery, but the universe makes it all even out in the end. the universe takes care of all its birds.”

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

At this point in the novel, you've read from the perspectives of five different characters who each experience and demonstrate kindness in different ways. Using specific examples from the text, cite three or more instances in which these characters have gone out of their way to choose to show kindness. How are these examples similar? How are they different?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 7



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 225

“I’ve never seen Dad cry before, but I saw him cry tonight. I had gone into Mom and Dad’s bedroom looking for Mom to put me to bed, but saw Dad sitting on the edge of the bed, taking off his socks. His back was to the door, so he didn’t know I was there. At first I thought he was laughing because his shoulders were shaking, but then he put his palms on his eyes and I realized he was crying. It was the quietest crying I’ve ever heard. Like a whisper. I was going to go over to him, but then I thought maybe he was whisper-crying because he didn’t want me or anyone else to hear him.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

Throughout this section, characters overcome their disagreements with each other when they are confronted by a shared loss. Using specific examples from the text, cite two or more instances in which grief drives change in the plot. Consider how this change is connected to the character’s growth throughout the novel to this point.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 8



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 243

“So on opening night, no one that was even remotely close to me was even there. And the thing is, I realized in my third or fourth rehearsal that I was good at this acting thing. I felt the part. I understood the words I spoke. I could read the lines as if they were coming from my brain and my heart. And on opening night, I can honestly say I knew I was going to be more than good: I was going to be great. I was going to be extraordinary, but there would be no one there to see.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

In *Wonder* the characters’ identities emerge and change throughout the novel. How do characters bridge the gap between the type of person they think they are and the type of person others see them as? Using specific examples from the text, cite two or more instances in which we see Miranda struggle with her sense of self. How do her struggles impact the broader narrative?

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 9



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 273

"When we got back to our section in front of the movie screen, no one had even noticed we'd been gone. Mr. Tushman and Ms. Rubin and Summer and all the rest of the kids were just watching the movie. They had no clue how something bad had almost happened to me and Jack. It's so weird how that can be, how you could have a night that's the worst in your life, but to everybody else it's just an ordinary night. Like, on my calendar at home, I would mark this as being one of the most horrific days of my life. This and the day that Daisy died. But for the rest of the world, this was just an ordinary day. Or maybe it was even a good day. Maybe somebody won the lottery today."

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

As much as Auggie and his friends have grown throughout the story, suffering is a constant presence. Even when he's having a great time at the nature retreat, the cruelty of others proves inescapable and once again he's left to rebuild his sense of dignity and self-esteem.

Write one paragraph about the ways in which Auggie handles his sadness and suffering. Consider the following: What does Auggie learn from his suffering, and how does this compare and contrast with other characters like Jack, Miranda, and Via?

You are encouraged to use evidence from the text, personal experiences, and external examples to support your claims.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Wonder, Day 10



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 300

“Here Mr. Tushman looked up at the audience. ‘Kinder than is necessary,’ he repeated. ‘What a marvelous line, isn’t it? Kinder than is *necessary*. Because it’s not enough to be kind. One should be kinder than is needed. Why I love that line, that concept, is that it reminds me that we carry with us, as human beings, not just the capacity to be kind, but the very choice of kindness.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme. Use as much detail as you can.

Your final writing product is a persuasive essay in response to the following questions:

- What is Wonder’s central message?
- Is there more than one?

Your essay should be 500 words (two pages double-spaced). You may use your previous writing responses for parts of the essay.

The essay should have a clear argument aimed at convincing readers to accept your interpretation of the novel. Use the following checklist to review your work:

- The first paragraph introduces your topic and states your opinion.
- You have two or three middle paragraphs, each of which makes a convincing point that supports your opinion.
- The main supporting points are organized in a way that allows readers to clearly understand your argument.
- The final paragraph summarizes your argument and restates your opinion.
- You have included a title that helps readers identify your essay topic.