

Wonder

Author: R.J. Palacio

Reviewed by: Harini Champooranan, 13

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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August Polman, or for short, Auggie, has a noticeably different facial appearance due to a very rare condition acquired at birth. After being homeschooled for most of his life, Auggie's parents decide to enroll him into a public school, Beecher Prep, starting 5th grade. When Auggie first attended the school, faces were made at him and he even got bullied. Auggie gets bullied often until he makes a few friends who are questioned by other classmates as to why they're being nice to Auggie. Many students saw him as a freak or thought his condition was weird and gross. Throughout the book, many conflicts arise not only for Auggie but for his sister as well. Auggie's sister, Via, has a hard time as some of her friends start drifting away and make new friends, leaving Via alone. Together, Auggie's family has to adapt to change and deal with the difficult times.

This book has a valuable message which is delivered to the audience through a child-friendly story. R.J. Palacio originally wrote this when Palacio's son noticed a girl with a different facial appearance and started to cry. This story is a great gift for ages 8-11 as it has a simple message of showing kindness. This book is available as a movie, also called Wonder.

The story allows readers to understand that we should all be treated the same, even if we don't look the same (acceptance). It also shows what bullying can do to someone and the importance of determination and perseverance.

Recommended Titles:

- 365 Days of Wonder
- Auggie & Me
- The Wonder Collection (4 Books)