

## Sample Book Report on Wonder

Wonder is a novel written by R.J. Palacio and published in 2012. In the story, a boy named August Pullman starts fifth grade at Beecher Prep after being homeschooled until then due to facial deformities from a congenital disorder. The book recounts his experiences as an ordinary student in the public school system, with the exception of having been home-schooled for most of his life, and chronicling how he copes with bullying and fitting into a new social group for the first time in his life.

The main character's name was inspired by Augie March, who has a similar appearance to August Pullman – both have "a nose that ran straight past handsome straight to interesting". R.J. Palacio, the author of the book, said that she was inspired to write the novel by her then five-year-old son, who loved playing with friends but always came home saying "I wish I had a story about a boy like me." Palacio began writing it as a result. She also has two other children and three stepchildren and homeschools them.

The main character's name is August Pullman. He feels weird catching people looking at him because of his face, but he tries to be a normal student in the fifth grade until kids start to bully him. Children started calling him "Auggie", then he meets another kid named Jack Will for the first time and they become friends quickly. Then, Julian appears bullying Auggie for being a freak and Julian says that he made a bet with a friend that if someone would look uglier than their brother, Bryce, it was supposed to be Auggie. Finally at lunchtime, one of the kids attacks Auggie while nobody was around so no one gets blamed. After this attack an emergency meeting is called by teachers for students to talk about how violence is never the answer.

The day after, a girl named Charlotte sits with Auggie and Jack Will at lunchtime and a new student named Summer appears who wants to sit at their table but they say no. Then, one of the school bullies shows up and starts criticizing Jack Will for hanging out with Auggie until Auggie tells everyone that his friend Charlotte was responsible for stopping the attack from happening the day before. In fifth grade, there is a talent show where people go on stage and sing or play an instrument. Everyone wants to see Auggie go on stage because he plays piano so well. He wants to do it but he doesn't have any courage, but then his mother goes up on stage with him and starts to sing a song that she used to sing when Auggie was little.

Two years passed and it's now the year 2012, which means it is summer time. Julian saves his girlfriend from drowning, but he doesn't save Auggie from getting hit in the face with a swarm of jellyfish during a beach trip. In fact, Julian pretends not to know who Auggie is because he feels guilty for bullying him before. He becomes friends with Auggie after apologizing to him in school one day and explains why he acted the way he did when they were younger. One night in winter break, Jack Will comes over to Auggie's house and asks if they can go celebrate Christmas early in New York City at FAO Schwarz. For Christmas, Auggie gets a robotic dog called Daisy that he's always wanted.

A few days later in January 2013, Jack Will is diagnosed with leukemia. Right before his surgery, Auggie talks to him even though Jack Will can't talk because of the trachea tube in his throat. Just before they go into surgery, Auggie makes him laugh using funny gestures like pulling down his eye patch and picking up the blanket with one finger which causes Jack Will to finally smile for the first time since he got sick. After this surgery Jack Will becomes depressed and doesn't move for three months until finally one day when he decides that today will be

different and starts slowly moving around everywhere by crawling then standing up on two feet until finally walking again with the help of Auggie and his mother.

In June 2014, when they are in sixth grade, Jack Will moves to a new house but still comes over every Sunday to have brunch with Auggie's family. One day in July 2015, on a Saturday when he is in seventh grade, Auggie and his friend Lida decide to go shopping at the mall because she wanted him to pick out some girl clothes for her since she did not like keeping dresses and skirts around her house. They found some great clothes that were perfect for her until Julian came into the store and saw them talking about which clothes would look good on Lida. He said it was weird seeing an ugly guy buying girl stuff so he threw a drink at Auggie's face and said that he would pay for the clothes.

Lida rushes over to help clean up Auggie's face without anyone seeing her because she is embarrassed of what just happened. Jack Will comes back from summer camp he went to with his family and tells Auggie about what they did like traveling to different countries every week, but not once did they travel to Canada which offends Auggie since he likes their country very much even though it does get cold there. At school one day in December 2016, Valentine's Day is coming up soon so students are supposed to ask other students if they want to be their valentine. Auggie has a crush on an eighth grader named Summer who sits next to him during class period 4, but he worries that she won't like him back because he is too ugly.

Meanwhile, Auggie's sister Via pretends to be his girlfriend for the week before Valentine's Day so he can give her chocolates and not have to worry about finding a real one. During school it's time for everyone in the school to vote who they think should be valentines who are best friends with each other. Only one name goes up on the screen at a time so when Via sees that her name is up there with Jack Will's she starts freaking out because she didn't want anyone thinking it was

weird since Auggie only has two friends besides her. The screen says "Via & Jack W." which causes all of their classmates to start laughing and saying "ew."

Via starts crying in class which makes Auggie upset at his classmates because they don't understand how hard it is to not have any friends. He decides he needs to talk to Via about what just happened but she doesn't want anyone making fun of her or Jack Will so she tells him that if he says anything then he will be going against their family's rule where you can never tell a secret.

Lida encourages Auggie to ask Summer out by giving him a few ideas on how he should do it. They decide on having Via call Summer up pretending to be Auggie because even though everyone thinks Via has no personality, they would think it was weird if the ugly kid asked someone out instead of his sister. When Via calls Summer, she pretends to be Auggie and tells her that he wants to meet up with her before school starts.

They meet at a fountain by Auggie's house where Summer says she didn't know about what happened earlier in the year since it was only on the fifth floor which is the middle school part of their building. She tells him that even though his sister pretended to be him it still counts as a real Valentine's Day valentine and gives him a hug which makes everything better for Auggie.

In August, during eighth grade orientation, Lida comes up to Auggie and asks if they can be friends again now that Jack Will is going off to public high school instead of staying at IHA forever which is what he thought would happen. Auggie tells her that it's actually his sister Via who wants to be friends with her but Lida says yes which causes them to become best friends again!

I mainly chose this book because the title sounded very interesting and I was interested in reading about how different people are treated for being ugly or not pretty which also ties into the sub-title of the book since one of the main characters, Auggie, has a really bad facial birthmark. The story takes place throughout several days mainly over the span of Valentine's Day week where there are multiple parts where different events take place. My favorite part is when Summer talks to August at the fountain near his house because they both find out what each other was thinking and that was really cool to me since they had both thought the other person wouldn't like them back.

I would recommend this book because it's very easy to read so pretty much anyone can understand it. However if you don't like sad stories then I would stay away from this book because Auggie feels alone at school when no one is his friend and in the beginning he talks about how he gets bullied by their older brother Julian, but later in the book via explains why she does that to him which makes sense. Overall it is an excellent book with a good plot line even though there are some sad parts.

I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.