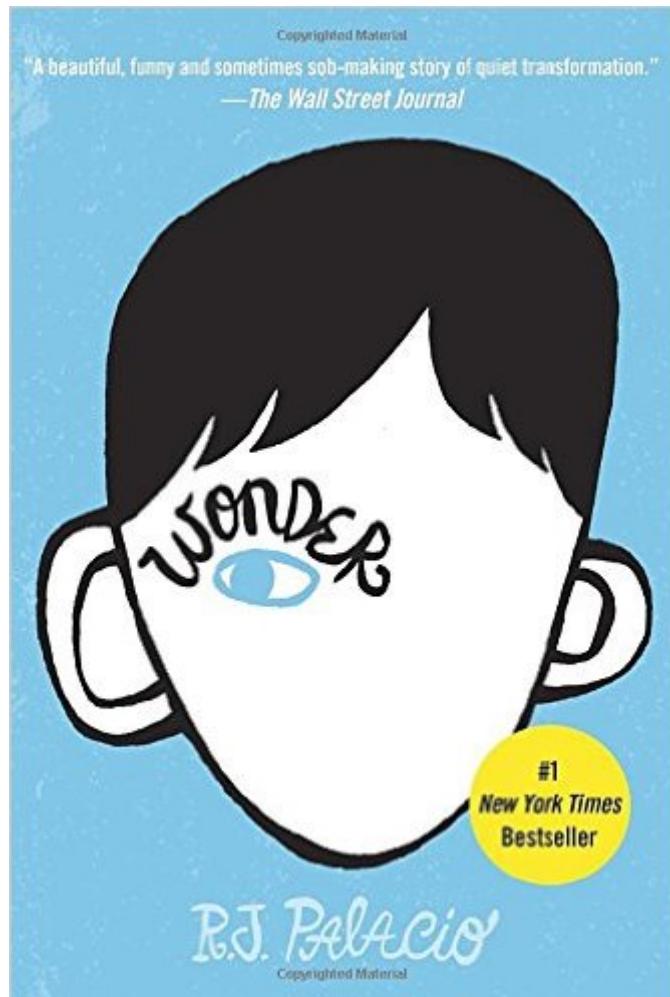


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# Wonder



## Synopsis

SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING JULIA ROBERTS, OWEN WILSON, AND JACOB TREMBLAY! Over 5 million people have read the #1 New York Times bestseller *WONDER* and have fallen in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. The book that inspired the Choose Kind movement. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse. August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *WONDER*, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. "Wonder is the best kids' book of the year," said Emily Bazelon, senior editor at Slate.com and author of *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness." "Indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out. Join the conversation: #thewonderofwonder

## Book Information

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Series: Wonder

Hardcover: 320 pages

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Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0375869020

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (8,595 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books >

Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #1 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Personal Hygiene #2 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

My 5th grader has craniofacial anomalies and I feel that this book could not have been better written. RJ Palacio caught Auggie's voice so well and captured his challenges and strengths so beautifully that I still can't believe that she doesn't have a child who is living this life. I'm not going to try to summarize the story as many other reviewers have done that - I just want to talk about the emotional resonance of the work. The sheer truth of Auggie's journey is what meant the most to me. There are so many small moments that struck me to the core - e.g. Auggie's feelings about Halloween, the way Auggie has an easier time when his classmates understand that there's more to him than his face, Auggie's struggle to move past his need for coddling, even the food that Auggie eats. The most emotional moment for me came toward the end of the book when Auggie's father tells him that he loves the way Auggie looks, because that it exactly how my husband and I feel about our son. I wish that everyone would read this book, because it will help them understand the humanity of my son and everyone like him.

It takes a lot of skill to weave the voices of eight narrators into one compelling story, and Palacio does it so well. *WONDER* is a tremendous debut, a novel that coaxes out grins even as it wrings out tears. I really loved this one, and I pushed it into my middle grade son's hands as soon as I finished. Auggie is a fifth grader. His face is so badly deformed, he spends much of his preschool years hiding under a toy astronaut helmet. When he starts attending school for the first time, he makes enemies and friends, enduring the worst kind of taunts and enjoying the best kinds of friendships. *WONDER* is Auggie's story, but it's also ours. *WONDER* captures the dual nature of childhood, both how cruel and how tender we can be with one another. It's about the wounds we inflict and the scars we carry, all the things that teach us to do things differently the next time. *WONDER* is the kind of story made for curling up and sharing, for talking and connecting. *WONDER* is worth talking about.

I am reading this out loud to my 9 year old whose taste in reading matter is beyond her reading

ability. I also grew up with a brother with a disability. I disagree with the reviewer who said it detracted from the story that there were many narrators. In particular I found when I got to Via's chapters, and her description of the ambiguity of her feelings, how she sometimes felt overlooked, and the relief of going away to be with her grandma, I had a hard time keeping reading, and was choking back the tears. I never understood about why I had this particularly close relationship with my grandma, or that some of these ambiguous feelings could be common to siblings of children who are different. Like Via I love my brother, and was always fiercely defensive of him, and like her I struggled with my human weaknesses around him.

RJ Palacio's "Wonder" should be required reading in the middle grades. The book is told by multiple narrators, so we get to know a lot of feelings and how some misunderstandings develop. The most important character is August Pullman, a child with severe facial deformities. He has been home-schooled, but now that he's ready for middle school (5th grade in this book), his parents encourage him to try a private school. Auggie is not too enthused, but he goes along for a "look-see" visit. The counselor and principal have set up some student guides that they can count on to make Auggie feel at home. The visit goes fairly well, and Auggie begins his journey. He quickly finds out the importance of where you sit at lunch (table = social status). When no one else will sit with him, Summer walks over. They become friends by talking to one another. Summer thinks Auggie is funny. She sees more in him than a face. Palacio gives us the full gamut of middle schoolers, from the "plague" if you touch the wrong person to the excitement over class projects. The lesson here is kindness. Why not choose kindness when you can? I like it that Palacio also gives Auggie's older sister, Via, a voice. She has been pushed into the background due to Auggie's various needs and operations. In high school, maybe no one will even care that her brother is Auggie? Children can learn to get along and to quit bullying. As more and more kids are mainstreamed, it is important for these issues to be talked about. From wheelchairs to feeding tubes to kids with autism--no one should be made afraid at school.

August has a face like nothing anyone has ever seen. Like a screaming and running away kind of face. He has accepted that this is the face he has. Now he has to figure out how to cope with a world that has never seen a face like his. He has been homeschooled his whole life and now for 5th grade, his parents want him to go to school. A regular school. With kids who don't know him. Kids who have never seen him. For fifth grade. I know I have always thought that 5th grade is the hardest school year of anyone's life, much less, someone like August. As we watch him and his classmates

grow it is gratifying that none of them are as cruel and heartless as we all know modern children can be. You will tear up and stand up and cheer as you follow along with the life of August, his friends, his sister, her friends and how everyone is affected by what happens in August's life. Yes, everyone deserves a standing ovation, at least once in their lives

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