

Reading Comprehension

Wonder

A) Read the text below.

What the Movie "Wonder" is about

Based on the New York Times bestseller, "Wonder" tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of August (Auggie) Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters fifth grade, attending an elementary school for the first time after being home-schooled by his mother. Auggie has Treacher Collins syndrome and so, despite numerous surgeries, does not quite look like the other kids. At Beecher Prep he faces the shocked stares of his schoolmates and the bullying mocking faces of some.



The movie takes you through this challenging year for Auggie and his family. From the sounds of it, *Wonder's* screenplay (by director Stephen Chbosky) has stayed very faithful to the novel, which has its pros and cons. The film is broken into apparent chapters, each from a different character's point of view. On the one hand, this is a fantastic approach, because it pays greater attention to the feelings of those around Auggie, most notably Auggie's



older sister Via. Some obvious characters - such as Auggie's parents - are left out. And most disappointingly, about two thirds of the way through the film this device is dropped out, even though it could have been taken further. While this chapter approach seems like an attempt to stay true to the book, it results in a film that lacks fluidity.

Jacob Tremblay is an absolute star in the leading role of Auggie. He gives a stellar performance, despite the fact that he's limited in the facial expressions he is able to convey under all that make-up. Sixteen-year-old Izabela Vidovic is a highlight as Via, the older sister who demands more attention from her parents who seem to use it all up on Auggie given his higher needs. It's always good to see the impact on siblings and it's something that "Wonder" does very well.

Something that was particularly heartening to see was the portrayal of the school bully's parents. Completely unwilling to see any fault in their own child or to admit any kind of responsibility for bad parenting, "Wonder" makes a clear comment on why nasty kids turn out the way they do. It's enough to even make you feel a bit sorry for the jerk. In contrast, Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson portray the sort of parents who should be cherished - not perfect, but doing a damn good job.

Different Perspectives about the Movie "Wonder"

Believe it or not, there is a hot debate going on about the movie "Wonder" - even years after its release. Some people and kids with facial differences applaud the movie, whereas others are upset by this movie. Their main source of disapproval is that the book isn't based on a real character, the author doesn't have a facial deformity and the child playing the main character Auggie in the movie doesn't have deformity either. Either way, there are some incredible lessons kids have learned from the movie "Wonder".

B) Now, read sentences 1-6 and choose TRUE or FALSE.

1. Luckily, the surgeries helped Auggie look similar to the other kids at school. [T] [F]
2. Both the movie and the novel tell the story from different characters' point of view.
[T] [F]
3. This technique is held all throughout the movie, from beginning to end. [T] [F]
4. Jacob Tremblay's performance is impeded by his make-up. [T] [F]
5. Both Auggie's and Julian's parents are accurately portrayed in the movie. [T] [F]
6. When the movie was released, it was widely acclaimed by all kinds of people. [T] [F]

C) Read the text below and match the headings (A-G) with the paragraphs (1-6).

There is ONE EXTRA letter which you don't need to use.

ONLY WRITE THE CORRECT LETTER IN EACH SPACE

Six Life Lessons kids Learned from the movie "Wonder"

Some lessons were brand new while others were reminders.

1.



Perhaps the biggest lesson of the movie and an important message for kids and adults alike. In the movie, the main character Auggie (August) has an unusual face. But as people around him get to know him better, and as his true self becomes revealed in the movie - we all learn he is fun, upbeat, kind and comedic.

2.

By the end of the movie, Auggie's character has mastered this lesson and shown that joy is inside all of us.

3.

In the movie Auggie goes through some tortuous times with other kids and his community. For the most part, Auggie doesn't let his experiences make him unhappy. Instead he keeps pressing on!

4.

The characters in the movie struggle with difficult things, it's just that some are more visible than others. You never know what someone else may be going through. The movie "Wonder" takes us through struggles such as Auggie's, which we can see, and struggles of other characters that aren't as visible. The author is clever to share different viewpoints of the same story.

5.

There's no doubt that the role of Isabel in this story is one of great importance, as is the role in so many kids' lives. Yet the role of mom often goes unnoticed.

6.

Watching this movie was an eye-opener for my kids to see other kids showing compassion and sympathy. Compassion is a topic we treasure in our home every day with small gestures. I say, "if you are nothing else, at least be kind." I was delighted to hear this echoed in the movie.

- A. - Everyone has challenges.
- B. - Happiness is a state of mind.
- C. - Choose Kind.
- D. - Don't judge anyone on appearance.
- E. - Character is determined by those little everyday moments.
- F. - Get better, not bitter.
- G. - A mother's role can never be too little.