

# 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.

# Use of English

## Review: Wonder the Book, and Wonder the Movie<sup>1</sup>



By now, everybody has heard of the book or the movie *Wonder*; they are both just groundbreaking (= making new discoveries; using new methods)! You are inhumane and live under a rock if you haven't even heard of the book.

*Wonder* is a book and movie about a boy called August (Auggie) Pullman who was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a regular 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.

I. - Read the next part of the Review and choose a word from the box to complete the gaps. There are some extra words!!! (Use a capital letter where necessary!!)

who - to - these - there - this - point - like - by - is - where - it - that - if -

### THE BOOK

*Wonder*, written (1) ..... R.J. Palacio, is now a #1 New York Times bestseller and (2) ..... included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list. The story begins from Auggie's (3) ..... of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and other important characters in the book. (4) ..... perspectives come together in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from <https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/blogs/post/review-wonder-the-book-and-wonder-the-movie/>

acceptance. One of the book's main messages is (5) ..... prevent bullying and to look at what's on the inside of a person, not what's on the outside, and that *you can't blend in when you were born to stand out*. In a place (6) ..... bullying among people, especially young ones, is a common thing, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. Every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage that is friendship.

(7) ..... is also a spin-off (= a book, a film, a television programme, or an object that is based on a book, film or television series that has been very successful) book called *Auggie & Me*, which has two extra perspectives of people that were important in the book (Julian and Charlotte) and shows what Auggie's life was (8) ..... when he was homeschooled and was still friends with Christopher, if you just haven't had enough of Auggie and want more of his story. (9) ..... you have a younger sibling, or cousin or family friend that can't read the novel, you will probably make them read another spin-off, R.J Palacio also wrote and illustrated *We're All Wonders* which is a picture book (10) ..... talks about Auggie and his dog Daisy who go on an adventure and it shows how every child, not just Auggie, wants to fit in and be seen as normal, not weird or strange, just normal.

## II. - Read the second part of the Review and choose the best option to complete the gaps.

### THE MOVIE

On November 27, 2012, it was announced that Lionsgate (1) ..... the feature film adaptation of R. J. Palacio's debut novel *Wonder*. Honestly, 2 years ago when my school librarian said that Lionsgate (2) ..... the rights to turn *Wonder* into a movie, I was jumping up and down and was bursting with excitement! The only thing I have against Lionsgate is that it took 5 years for it to finally release the movie. Who does that?! I wish I (3) ..... to wait so long!!!

I mean, how many times does one of your all-time favourite books become a movie?! Okay, now that I say that, it isn't very rare, but still! (4) ..... they made us wait for 5 years, it was worth it!!!!

When I was in fifth grade, I heard a lot about the book from my friends, but I wasn't into



reading a lot (oh, how much I (5) ..... since then!) and I didn't like the idea of the book. Now I am very grateful that my teacher chose this book for reading aloud. I (6) ..... the book like 6 times and watched the movie even more.

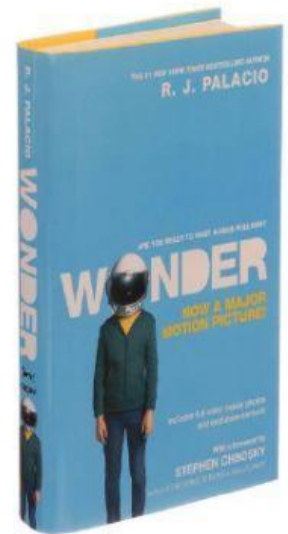
The only things I have against this movie is that it didn't go with the book exactly and that made me angry. For instance, the friendship of Auggie and Jack seemed a little fast-paced or Auggie's role, in my opinion, should have been played by a boy that actually had a facial difference so that the audience found it as hard as any of Auggie's friends to (7) ..... his look. There also wasn't a part featuring either Justin's or Summer's perspectives, like in the book; and Auggie's family didn't feel sad enough when Daisy died (maybe except for the dad.) There was no farting nurse that was grumpy but nice. The dad didn't drop the camera (8) ..... he saw Auggie's face and none of the stuff that happened when Auggie was born in the book happened in the movie. Via's personality is totally different from the one in the movie. In the book she is ill tempered when it comes to her brother and she (9) ..... think he was the centre of their universe, but in the movie it shows that she is a quiet person that talks when talked to only. Why?! It never shows that Auggie had friends before he went to school, never showed Christopher or Zachary or Alex. In the book it said that his mom wasn't good at fractions but in the movie it's science and there are many, many more differences between the book and the movie. The movie was good. (10) ..... the book is still a thousand times better.

### III. - Read the last part of the Review and complete the gaps with only ONE word.

There (1) ..... a few parts that are really sad that might even make you cry (2) ..... you are that type of person, but there are a lot of happy parts that make your heart leap inside its cage with happiness. My friends and I (3) ..... counting the days to the release day of the movie. It isn't very suspenseful but it is still a very good movie.

The trailer is awesome and shows how the different characters act towards Auggie and (4) ..... his school year changes. You don't even need to watch the movie to know that it's good. You just have a feeling (5) ..... you won't be underwhelmed.

I (6) ..... recommend it to anyone who likes sad stuff (just be ready with a full box of tissues by your side). If you (7) ..... contemporary and fast reads, then you should definitely read (8) ..... book if you haven't done so yet, but I really don't think there is somebody above grade 4 who (9) ..... not read the book yet. I don't believe the movie is on Amazon Prime yet, but just (10) ..... patient because that movie is so worth the wait!!!



Review by Teen Blogger, Malk.