

Name: _____

Summer Reading Guide: *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

Part 1: August (Chapters 1–8)

Chapters included: Ordinary, Why I Didn't Go to School, Christopher's House, Driving, Paging Mr. Tushman, Nice Overalls, The Grand Tour, The Performance Space

Check for Understanding

1. Why has August (Auggie) been homeschooled up until the start of fifth grade?
 - A) His parents travel constantly for work.
 - B) He needed many surgeries and was often sick.
 - C) He prefers playing video games all day.
 - D) There were no schools in his neighborhood.
2. How does Auggie feel when his parents take him to visit Beecher Prep for the first time?
 - A) Excited to meet new friends and try out for sports.
 - B) Bored because he already knows everything they are teaching.
 - C) Nervous and upset because he realizes they are trying to enroll him.
 - D) Angry at his sister, Via, for making him go.

Mr. Tushman asks three students—Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte—to give Auggie a tour. First impressions matter. Choose one of these three students and describe how they treated Auggie during the tour. What does this tell you about their character?

Part 2: Starting School (Chapters 9–15) *Chapters included: The Deal, Home, First Day of School, Locks, Around the Room, Lamb to the Slaughter, Choose Kind*

Check for Understanding

1. On the first day of school, what does Julian ask Auggie about during English class that makes the room go quiet?
 - A) If he likes to play Star Wars.
 - B) Why his face looks different.
 - C) If he is good at sports.
 - D) If Darth Sidious is his favorite character.

2. What is Mr. Browne's first precept (rule) for the month of September?
- A) Always hand your homework in on time.
 - B) When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.
 - C) Treat school like it is your full-time job.
 - D) Never leave a classmate sitting alone at lunch.

Mr. Browne defines a precept as "rules about really important things." If you had to create a personal precept or rule for how people should treat each other in the 6th grade, what would it be and why?

Part 3: Friendship & Halloween (Chapters 16–31)

Chapters included: Lunch, The Summer Table, One to Ten, Padawan, Wake Me Up When September Ends, Jack Will, Mr. Browne's October Precept, Apples, Halloween, School Pageant, Highlighting, Bleeding Scream, Names, In Class, A Broken Friend, The Last Chapter

Check for Understanding

1. Why does Summer sit with Auggie on the very first day of lunch when no one else will?
 - A) Her teacher forced her to sit there.
 - B) She felt sorry for him and wanted to be famous.
 - C) She simply wanted to be nice and sit with someone who was alone.
 - D) She was secretly related to him.
2. What happens on Halloween that completely breaks Auggie's heart?
 - A) He is forced to wear a costume he hates.
 - B) He overhears Jack Will saying mean things about him to Julian.
 - C) No one leaves any candy in his trick-or-treat bag.
 - D) He gets sick and has to miss the entire school parade.

Auggie changes his costume at the last minute to the "Bleeding Scream," which allows him to walk around completely hidden. Why do you think people act differently when they are wearing a mask? How did Jack Will's behavior change when he didn't know Auggie was listening?

Part 4: Via's World (Chapters 32–54)

Chapters included: A Tour of the Galaxy, Before August, Seeing August, August Through the Peephole, High School, Major Tom, After School, The Padawan Bites the Dust, An Apparition at the Door, Breakfast, Genetics 101, The Punnett Square, Out with the Old, October 31, In Treatment, Over the Top, Beautiful, In This Corner, Elements, The Padawan, The Secret, Dual Perspectives, Clues, Regular School

Check for Understanding

1. How does Via view her role in the family compared to Auggie?
 - A) She feels she is the favorite child who gets all the attention.
 - B) She views Auggie as the sun and the rest of the family as planets revolving around him.
 - C) She wishes she could change schools so she doesn't have to see him.
 - D) She thinks her parents are way too strict with her homework.
2. What does Via want more than anything when she starts high school?
 - A) To join the drama club and get the lead role.
 - B) To be known as her own person, not just "the girl with the brother who has a deformed face."
 - C) To get a car so she can drive Auggie around.
 - D) To convince her parents to let her go to boarding school.

Reading the story from Via's perspective changes how we see Auggie's family. Even though Via loves her brother fiercely, she struggles with her own feelings of being left out. Do you think it is fair for Via to feel this way? Explain your thoughts.

Part 5: Jack Will's Side (Chapters 55–66) *Chapters included: Going Home, The Christmas Card, Letters, Emails, Post-it Notes, Four Things, Ex-Friends, Snow, The Bleeding Scream, The Science Fair, In the Hallway, Detention, Season's Greetings, Letters*

Check for Understanding

1. When Jack Will reflects on his friendship with Auggie, what does he realize?
 - A) He only hung out with Auggie because Mr. Tushman told him to.
 - B) Auggie is actually really funny, smart, and a genuinely great friend.
 - C) He wishes he had stayed friends with Julian instead.
 - D) Auggie is terrible at science and video games.

2. Why does Jack Will punch Julian in the mouth in the hallway?
- A) Julian stole Jack's science fair project idea.
 - B) Julian called Auggie a "freak" and made a mean comment.
 - C) Julian tripped Jack while they were walking to lunch.
 - D) Julian wouldn't let Jack sit at the popular table.

Jack Will makes a massive mistake on Halloween, but he takes responsibility and stands up for Auggie later on. Think of a time you made a mistake or hurt a friend's feelings. What is the best way to fix a friendship when trust is broken?

Part 6: Justin, Summer, & Via (Chapters 67–91)

Chapters included: Valentine's Day, Our Town, Lady and the Tramp, Olivia's Brother, Good Friday, The Bleeding Scream, The Science Fair, In the Hallway, Detention, Season's Greetings, Letters, and the corresponding Justin/Summer short chapters

Check for Understanding

1. What instrument does Justin play, which Auggie thinks looks like a machine gun case?
- A) The Trumpet
 - B) The Fiddle / Fiddle case
 - C) The Drums
 - D) The Electric Guitar
2. When Julian and his friends start a "war" against Jack Will, what does Summer do?
- A) She switches sides and joins Julian's group.
 - B) She stays completely neutral and refuses to talk to either of them.
 - C) She remains a loyal, supportive friend to both Jack and Auggie.
 - D) She tells the principal and gets everyone suspended.

Julian tries to turn the entire grade against Jack Will by ignoring him. This is called a "silent treatment" or social bullying. Why is this type of bullying just as hurtful as physical fighting? How would you react if you saw a classmate being ignored by everyone else?

Part 7: The Nature Retreat (Chapters 92–109)

Chapters included: Daybreak, Camp, Fairly Normal, Into the Woods, The Alien, Voices in the Dark, The Fight, The Rescue, Aftermath, Safe

Check for Understanding

1. What event happens at the outdoor nature retreat that changes how the other Beecher Prep boys treat Auggie?
 - A) Auggie wins the entire school talent show.
 - B) Amos, Miles, and Henry defend Auggie and Jack from mean older kids from another school.
 - C) Auggie gets lost in the woods and finds his way back alone.
 - D) Julian apologizes to Auggie in front of the whole camp.
2. What precious item does Auggie lose in the woods during the scuffle?
 - A) His Star Wars watch.
 - B) His hearing aids.
 - C) His favorite baseball cap.
 - D) His chapter book.

During the fight in the woods, boys who used to ignore or dislike Auggie (like Amos and Miles) stepped up to protect him. Why do you think facing a common threat brought the boys together? How did this night change Auggie's status at school?

Part 8: The Graduation (Chapters 110–123)

Chapters included: Home, Bear, The Shift, Ducks, The Last Precept, The Drop-Off, Take Your Seats, Simple, Awards, Floating, Pictures, The Walk Home

Check for Understanding

1. What special award does Auggie receive at the 5th-grade graduation ceremony?
 - A) The Academic Excellence Award for highest grades.
 - B) The Perfect Attendance Award.
 - C) The Henry Ward Beecher Medal for showing outstanding character and kindness.
 - D) The Best Actor Award for the school play.

2. At the end of the book, what does Auggie's mom whisper in his ear as they walk home?
- A) "I'm so glad this school year is finally over."
 - B) "You really are a wonder, Auggie. You are a wonder."
 - C) "Let's go buy that new video game you wanted."
 - D) "You need to study harder next year in 6th grade."

Look back at how Auggie started the school year (hiding his face, terrified of being stared at) compared to how he ended it (standing on a stage receiving a standing ovation). What was the most important factor that helped Auggie grow so brave over the year?

Final Summer Reflection & Project Menu

Choose **one** of the following options to complete after finishing the book.

- **Option 1: The Precept Poster**

Choose one of Mr. Browne's monthly precepts from the book, or create your own original one. On a sheet of paper, write the precept in large, bold letters. Below it, write a short paragraph explaining what it means to you and how a 6th grader can practice it in real life. Decorate the poster with bright colors.

- **Option 2: Character Growth Double-Portrait**

Draw a split picture of Jack Will or Auggie. On the left side, draw/describe them at the *beginning* of the book (their fears, attitudes, actions). On the right side, draw/describe them at the *end* of the book. Write 3–4 sentences explaining how they changed over the school year.

- **Option 3: The "Choose Kind" Journal Entry**

Write a journal entry from the perspective of an ordinary student at Beecher Prep who wasn't main friends with Auggie but watched everything happen. Describe how watching Auggie's strength—and the way people treated him—changed the way *you* plan to treat people in your own school.

Option 1 or 2: Work Space