

Seventh Grade Language Arts: Summer Assignment

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“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” - Henry James

Meet August Pullman. His family and friends call him Auggie. On the outside, Auggie may look a bit different from you and me. Yet on the inside, he likes to do the same things as all kids his age—eat ice cream, ride bikes, play ball—he even has an XBOX and loves *Star Wars*. Auggie is a self-described “medical wonder” that has lived his entire life around doctor’s visits, surgeries, and a fear of being made fun of because of how he looks. Up until now, Auggie has been educated at home by his mother. As a family, the Pullmans decide that Auggie is ready for public school for the first time ever...in fifth grade.

Follow Auggie on his journey into fifth grade, as he makes friends, enemies and a difference.

Your Task:

- 1) Read ***Wonder***. Even if you’ve already read it, it’s a really good idea to give in another look!
- 2) Pick one of the prompts to write about. It must be typed and double spaced, in size 12 font only.
- 3) Be sure to put your name on your response and include the title of the reflection.
- 4) Your response should be 2-3 paragraphs in length. ***You must answer all parts of the question.*** (Remember, a paragraph is between 6-8 sentences...however, you may certainly write more!)

1. Auggie’s personality

How would you describe Auggie as a person in the first few chapters of the book?

What about the final few chapters?

Has he changed significantly?

Which experiences or episodes during the story do you think had a particular effect on him? How or why?

2. I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream

The author, R.J Palacio, has explained that she was inspired to write *Wonder* after an experience at a local ice cream parlour, very similar to the scene described in the chapter 'Carvel', where Jack sees Auggie for the first time. In this scene, Jack's babysitter Veronica chooses to get up and quickly walk Jack and his little brother Jamie away from Auggie, rather than risk Jamie saying something rude or hurtful. What do you think you would have done, if put in that position?

3. Laughter is the best medicine:

Auggie's parents bring Auggie around to the idea of attending school by joking with him about Mr. Tushman's name, and telling him about their old college professor, Bobbie Butt.

To what extent is humor used as a tool throughout *Wonder* to make difficult or tense situations lighter, or to convey a part of the story that would otherwise be depressing or sad? Look at the chapter, 'How I Came To Life.'

4. Star Wars

Star Wars is one of Auggie's passions. Why do you think this is?

Why do you think Auggie could identify with these characters, or would aspire to be like them?

5. Via

Describe Via's personality. What did you think of her as a character? Did you empathize with her?

Why do you think Via was so angry to learn that Auggie cut off his Padawan braid?

Do you think Via's own attitude towards her brother changes throughout the story?

Remember: Responses should be typed, double spaced and size 12 font.