Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Discussion Questions p. 3-80

Ordinary:

1. Why do you think the author chose not to describe August?

How I Came to Life:

1. How does the “farting nurse” relate to the phrase “you can't judge a book by its cover”?

Driving:

1. What is a “white lie”? Do you think it's ever okay to tell one?

Jack Will, Julian and Charlotte:

1. Why was August more comfortable meeting new kids when he was little?
2. Why would August’s mom be more scared than he was?

The Performance Space:

1. Do you think August has had a lot of people ask him questions like Julian did? How does this make August feel?

Home:

1. Why would August still want to go to school after being treated badly on the tour?

Choose Kind:

1. Do you agree with Mr. Browne that “WHO WE ARE” is the most important precept? Why or why not?
2. What do you think made August “suddenly realize he would like school no matter what”?

Padawan:

1. Why did August cut off his “padawan” braid?

Jack Will:

1. Why was it okay for Jack to ask August about his face? What’s different about how he asked as compared to Julian?

The Bleeding Scream:

1. What would you have done if you were August and heard people saying those things about you?
2. If you had been one of the kids in that group, do you think you would have said something to Jack?

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A Tour of the Galaxy:

1. Do you think Via had to grow up too fast to cope with August’s needs?

Seeing August:

1. Via feels guilty about seeing August the way other people do, just for a split second. How could this realization have been helpful for her though?

August Through the Peephole:

1. Why do you think the author chose to have Via give a full description of August’s face instead of August?
2. “Here’s what I think:we’ve all spent so much time trying to make August think he’s normal that he actually thinks he is normal. And the problem is, he’s not.” (p.90) Do you agree with Via? Why or why not?

An Apparition at the Door:

1. What deeper meaning can be found in Via wondering if her mother has ever stood outside her door like she does August’s?

October 31:

1. Why does Via feel like she and August have different moms?

Time to Think:

1. How would you describe Via and August’s relationship?

November:

1. How is Summer a great friend for August?

Warning: This Kid is Rate R:

1. How does August’s reaction to Summer asking about his face compare to reactions he’s had in the past? Why was this different?

Carvel:

1. “Jack, sometimes you don’t have to mean to hurt someone to hurt someone.” Have you ever hurt someone without meaning to? How did you handle it?

Ex-Friends:

1. Is it surprising to you that Jack has no idea how he hurt August’s feelings?

Private School:

1. Why doesn’t Jack fit in at Beecher Prep?

Partners:

1. How has Jack’s character changed throughout the story?

Letters, Emails, Facebook, Text:

1. Does does August’s mother’s statement “the apple doesn’t fall far from to tree” apply to the emails from Julian’s mother to Mr. Tushman?

Sides:

1. How has August’s personality changed since the beginning of the book?

The Bus Stop:

1. Why would Justin choose to defend Jack?

The Universe:

1. How has the universe taken care of Auggie?

Hearing Brightly:

1. Have you ever worried about something that turned out to be nothing?

School:

1. Why did Miranda convince the drama teacher to switch plays, even though Auggie isn’t her brother?

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Extraordinary, but No One There to See:

1. Why did Miranda let Via play the part of Emily on opening night, even though she knew she’d be good?

Packing:

1. Auggie thinks his mom was referring to his height when she said, “I can’t believe how much you’ve grown up this year, Auggie.” (p.254) What is she really referring to?

Day One:

1. What was one advantage Auggie had with his hearing aids over regular people?

Alien:

1. Why did Henry, Miles, and Amos help Auggie and Jack?

Voices in the Dark:

1. Why is it such a big deal that Amos and Miles high-fived Auggie?

The Shift:

1. How has this shift made life better for Auggie?

The Drop-Off:

1. Why did Auggie’s dad throw the astronaut helmet out? Why was this important for him to do?

A Simple Thing:

1. Why is it important to be “kinder than necessary”?

Awards:

1. Why do you think Mr. Tushman got so choked up when he was presenting August with his award?