

Wonder by R. J Palacio – Novel Study



When answering questions on the novel, please do the following:

- write longhand in black or blue pen in your exercise books;
- rule a margin;
- make sure to write the question number next to your answer;
- aim to write at least 3-4 sentences;
- leave a space between each answer to put in any extra notes that you missed; and
- use quotations where possible to support your answers.

Part 1 – August (pg.1)

1. Who is August? Why hasn't he been to school before Bleacher Prep? What is the name of his condition?
2. How do people react when they first see August? How does August feel?
3. Why doesn't August help Henry open his lock?
4. August loves *Star Wars* so much that he even has a small braid like a Padawan, Jedi apprentice, in the back of his hair. How does Julian use his love of *Star Wars* against August?."
5. Who chooses to sit with August at lunch? Why is this considered such a big deal?
6. What does August overhear while dressed as the Bleeding Scream? How does this affect him?

Activity – Character Table for August

TECHNIQUE 1: Characterization – this is how an author creates an interesting character and lets them develop throughout a novel.

Now that you have read the first Part of *Wonder* draw a character table like this in your exercise books and make notes about August.

Part and Page number of this section	Part One (pg.1)
Character	August Pullman
Picture	
Quotation at the start	"Fate smiled and destiny laughed as she came to my cradle..." Natalie Merchant " <i>Wonder</i> "
Personal History/ Background (before Bleacher Prep)	
Friends/ Enemies/ Neutrals	
Significant events	Visiting Bleacher Prep and meeting Julian, Jack and Charlotte
How would you describe this character's personality at this stage of the novel? Why?	
Do they change in any way throughout the chapter? Explain	

Part 2 – Via (pg. 80)

7. Why is it so significant to Via that her Gran says “...I want you to know that you have me looking out for you”?

TECHNIQUE 2: Metaphor - When you use a metaphor, you are saying that a person, place, animal or thing IS some thing else (not just LIKE it!). Metaphors are stronger images than similes. They don't mean exactly what the words say. Here are some examples of metaphors:

"The Mayor glared with eyes of ice."

"My headteacher is a dragon."

8. Via's Chapter starts with "Far above the world/ Planet Earth is blue/ And there's nothing I can do" from Space Oddity by David Bowie. She then describes how Auggie is like the sun and that she and her parents are like planets revolving around him. Yet ends by saying, "The Galaxy is changing. The planets are falling out of alignment" (pg. 83). Palacio is using a metaphor to describe Via's reaction to August and her own experiences of Middle School. Why do you think the author is using a metaphor rather than literally describing events? How does this help the reader understand events in an even more powerful way?

ACTIVITY – Character Table for Via

Now like the table, you created for August in Part 1, create one for Via in your exercise books.

Part 3 – Summer (pg. 118)

9. What is the Plague?
10. Why is Summer invited to Savanna's party? Why does she reject dating Julian?

ACTIVITY Character Table for Summer

Now like the table, you created for August in Part 1, create one for Summer in your exercise books.

Part 4 – Jack (pg. 133)

11. What causes Jack to punch Julian?
12. Why does Charlotte tell Jack about the 'war'? Yet makes certain not to be seen with him. Which is worse being on either August or Julian's side or a neutral in this war?
13. What did Julian's mother do to the school year level photo? What does this reveal about Julian's background and what might be motivating him?

TECHNIQUE 3: Using different types of texts to tell a story, can make a book seem more immediate and real as well as giving the reader a different perspective on events.

Letters, Emails, Facebook, Texts (pg.160)

14. What do each of these texts reveal about the person sending the message? (Think about the content of each message and what it reveals about a character's personality?)

ACTIVITY – Character Table for Jack.

Now like the table, you created for August in Part 1, create one for Jack in your exercise books.

Part 5 – Justin (pg. 186)

TECHNIQUE 4: WRITING STYLE – in first person narratives, this is often used to reflect the character's personality.

15. Justin's section is told without any capitals for sentences. Do you know anyone who writes like this? Why do you think R. J Palacio choose to write like this for Justin's section.

ACTIVITY – Character Table for Justin

Now like the table, you created for August in Part 1, create one for Justin in your exercise books.

Part 6 – August (pg. 206)

16. What signs are there that other people in the grade are growing sick of Julian’s ‘war’ and bullying?

Part 7 – Miranda (pg. 235)

17. Why did Miranda stop being friends with Via? Does Palacio give any reasons that might explain Miranda’s actions?

ACTIVITY – Character Table for Miranda

Now like the table, you created for August in Part 1, create one for Miranda in your exercise books.

Part 8 – August (pg. 249)

18. What happens to August and Jack during the Movie Night at the Nature Retreat? Why is it so significant? How does it change August’s status in the class and relationship with fellow students?

Part 9 – Julian (pg. 316)

19. It was only after *Wonder*, was published that RJ Palacio decided to add in an extra part written from Julian’s perspective. What do we learn about Julian and why he bullied August?

20. Why do you think Palacio added the chapter on Julian after the novel had been published?

21. Who is Tourteau? How does Julian’s Grandmere’s story change his attitude to August?

ACTIVITY – Character Table for Julian.

Now like the table, you created for August in Part 1, create one for Julian in your exercise books.