## WOTDSR momational <br> "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose. गind." <br> \#theWonderofWonder



# WONDSR <br> R.J. Peltcio' 

I won't describe what I look like.
Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.


HC: 978-0-375-86902-0 GLB: 978-0-375-96902-7 EL: 978-0-375-89988-1

## choosekind

choosekind.tumblr.com
Inspired by Wonder, this antibullying initiative encourages young readers to share their story and pledge to choosekind in their school and community. Have your class sign the pledge today!
ugust Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream 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. Wonder, now a \#1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.
"Wonder is the best kids' book of the year," said Emily Bazelon, senior editor at Slate.com and author of Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R. J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness"indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.

## 365 Drys of WORDER

## R.J. Peltcio'



HC: 978-0-553-49904-9 GLB: 978-0-553-49905-6 EL: 978-0-553-50903-8
n Wonder, readers were introduced to memorable English teacher Mr. Browne and his love of precepts. Simply put, precepts are principles to live by, and Mr. Browne has compiled 365 of them-one for each day of the year-drawn from popular songs to children's books to inscriptions on Egyptian tombs to fortune cookies. His selections celebrate kindness, hopefulness, the goodness of human beings, the strength of people's hearts, and the power of people's wills. Interspersed with the precepts are letters and emails from characters who appeared in Wonder. Readers hear from Summer, Jack, Charlotte, Julian, and Amos.

There's something for everyone here, with words of wisdom from such noteworthy people as Anne Frank, Martin Luther King Jr., Confucius, Goethe, Sapphoand over 100 readers of Wonder who sent R. J. Palacio their own precepts.


## The Julian Chapter: <br> A WOTDSA STORY

his brand new, exclusive chapter from Wonder will finally reveal the bully's side of the story. Why is Julian so unkind to Auggie? And does he have a chance for redemption?

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Classroom Information


August
Week of



## Back to School

Full of mixed impressions, changing views, and lessons on change, Wonder is the perfect book to share with students at the beginning of the school year to encourage respect and kindness in your classroom. Each character experiences this shift in thinking and feeling differently. Start a conversation about first impressions, beginning something new, getting to know someone, and adapting to a new school, new home, or new sibling. Pose the following questions as class discussions, writing prompts, etc.:

- What characteristics form a first impression?
- Has your first impression ever been wrong?
- How did you come to realize it and did you do anything to change your view?



## Talking About Friendship

Discuss the characteristics of a good friend. Which of Auggie's friends demonstrate these qualities? What characteristics of a good friend does Auggie possess? How does Auggie help his friends see him as an ordinary kid? How does Auggie's ability to be comfortable in his own skin make it easier for his friends and family to relate to him? Share examples from the book to support your responses.


September
Week of




## October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Use Wonder as the anchor for a conversation about bullying in your classroom.

- Have students take the pledge to choose tinc at choosekind.tumblr.com.
- Compare and contrast incidences of bullying a nd incidences of kindness in Wonder.
- Have students work together to create a public-service announcement for your school.
- Using available technology, make your own video book trailer to help promote Wonder. Check out the Random House book trailer at SchoolTube.com.
- Publish, film, or blog about a collection of your students' precepts.

October
Week of


## $\sqrt{3}$ Talking About Bullying

Kids that are different are almost always bullied in some way. How does Auggie know the first time he meets Julian that he will be a bully? In what subtle ways does Julian bully Auggie? What purpose does Julian have in bullying Jack? What power does Julian have to force the other students to join in his cruelty toward Auggie and Jack? What prompts the seventh graders to attack and bully Auggie? In general, what is Auggie's response to the bullying? How does being kind help someone overcome challenges?
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Social Studies
Reading Writing Spelling Math Science Social Studies



November
Week of

|  | Reading |  | Writing |  | Spelling |  | Math |  | Science |  |  |
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## Talking About 7 tamily

Discuss Auggie's relationship with each of his family members. How does Via react to Auggie's facial difference? How is her life affected by how Auggie looks? She says, "I'm always going to be the sister of a kid with a birth defect: that's not the issue. I just don't always want to be defined that way." (p. 91) What does Via mean by this statement? How could her parents help Via's life be more normal even though Auggie's isn't? What sacrifices does Via have to make in her relationship with her parents? What qualities do Auggie's parents possess that help them to be good parents to Auggie? How do respect and trust play a role in their family dynamics?

November
Week of








# January 

Week of



## Talking About Betrayal

Auggie and Jack are great friends; they laugh together, they talk about anything and everything, and they feel comfortable with one another. So why does Jack betray Auggie by talking badly behind his back? How does Auggie feel when he hears what Jack has said? At the same time Auggie is experiencing betrayal by his friend, Via is also feeling betrayed by her two best friends, Miranda and Ella. How do Miranda and Ella betray Via? What is Via's response? How do Via and Auggie resolve their individual conflicts and cope with the pain of betrayal?



## Talking Ahout Pe P eer ressure

Who are Auggie's allies in Wonder? How do Auggie's friends, family, and teachers stand up for him? Did peer pressure have an impact on bullying in Wonder? Give examples of students standing up to peer pressure? Give examples of students giving in to peer pressure. Do you believe that kindness can win out over bullying?


February
Week of





## (eo) Talking About Social Status

What was Auggie's social status at the beginning of Wonder? What factors determined Auggie's social status at Beecher Prep? As classmates got to know Auggie, what character traits were valued? How did Auggie change his social status in the story? How did Auggie change the social dynamics at Beecher Prep?

## Iningrace Connection

To help the reader make connections with Auggie and his life, the author uses allusions to Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, Star Wars, and the Augie Doggie cartoons. Ask students working in small groups to brainstorm other allusions that would help convey Auggie's situation and then to write their best allusions on four sentence strips. Have each group swap allusions with another group and discuss how the allusions apply to Auggie and his situation. Post discussion comments along with allusion strips around the classroom.

March
Week of




April
Week of


## April is

April
Week of


Line 5: Titte (synonym for the title) -1 word
\#theWonderofWonder choosekind.tumblr.com

Auggie says, "I felt very sad and a tiny bit happy at the exact same time, kind of like that laughing-crying feeling." (p. 33) Most everyone has experienced this juxtaposition of emotions. Ask students to select a partner and then to write a poem in two voices: one voice expressing Auggie's sadness at various points of the story and the other voice expressing his happiness. Have students read their poems to the class.


April
Week of




Week of



In small groups or with a partner, ask students to find an occurence in the book they can portray by illustrating the scene, creating a music montage to accompany an oral reading, or writing and performing the scene. Have students display or present their resulting projects to the class.


May
Week of



Call a family member whom you
haven't
talked to in a while.






## WOODSR In тне сомминity

It's rare to come across a middle-grade book with writing powerful enough to make both adults and young readers see the world differently. Wonder, by R. J. Palacio, is such a book. It has reached over 1 million readers and counting, and every day is adopted by more classrooms, schools, and communities, all eager to choose kind and help spread the wonder of Wonder.

When reading Wonder, you see what it is like not only to be Auggie, but to be his parent, his sibling, his teacher, his classmate, and finally his friend. Wonder is truly the portrait of, and a tribute to, a community.

After you have gotten to know Wonder, we hope you will consider sharing Auggie's story and will introduce him to the people of your town by setting up a community-wide reading.

Here are some tips on how to set up a communitywide reading of Wonder:

- The American Library Association has created a guide on how to set up a community-reads event. Use this document as a guide on how to budget for, plan, fund-raise, and advertise a Wonder community-reads campaign: http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/ files/content/ppo/programming/onebook/files/ onebookguide.pdf
- R. J. Palacio is part of the Random House Speakers Bureau. If you think your community event would benefit from an author visit, please see http://www. rhspeakers.com/speaker/r-j-palacio/ to inquire about hosting Raquel and to find more information on the book.
- Have members of your community sign the pledge to choose kind here: http://www.randomhouse.com/ kids/choose-kind/pledge.php
- Visit: http://choosekind.tumblr.com/resources to download images that can be shared on social media when marketing your event.
- Public libraries and independent bookstores are a natural and great fit in marketing community-reads events and distributing promotional materials. Below please find a list of possible program partners you might approach in your community:

Theater Companies • Art Galleries • Museums • Reader's Theater Ensembles • Literacy Organizations • Local Businesses Minority Group Associations • City Council •<br>Elected Officials (i.e., State and U.S. Representatives/Senators)• Media • Area Business Owners • Local Clergy

## PRAISE

"I believe without hesitation that every middle-grade classroom in America should have a copy of R. J. Palacio's Wonder."
-Colby Sharp, fourth-grade teacher
"[Wonder] will lead to amazing discussions in classrooms about Auggie's courage, the need for kindness, and the fact that bravery can take many forms." -Katherine Sokolowski, fifth-grade teacher

* "A great discussion starter about love, support, and judging people on their appearance. A well-written, thoughtprovoking book."
—School Library Journal, Starred
* "A memorable story of kindness, courage and wonder."
—Kirkus Reviews, Starred
* "It's a rare story with the power to open eyes-and hearts-to what it's like to be singled out for a difference you can't control, when all you want is to be just another face in the crowd."—Publishers Weekly, Starred
* "Kids' books about befriending somebody 'different' could fill a library. But this debut novel rises to the top."-Booklist, Starred

The students at Rossville Consolidated Schools in Rossville, Indiana, had a birthday party for Auggie on October 10. They were instructed to write only their name on a blue affirmation sheet that read $\qquad$ is a wonder


After singing and cake, the classes gave each other standing ovations. Next, the students taped their affirmation sheets on their backs and took turns writing why each of their classmates "is a wonder."
Read more about the celebration at nerdybook-club.wordpress.com/2012/10/26/celebrating-the-wonder-of-wonder-by-sherry-gick

## The students at Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Connecticut, created a "Pit of

 Wonder" to help their students talk about friendship and kindness! Read more about the project at bit.ly/lgmXi2i

Paris Elementary School in South Paris, Maine
Choose Kind Before You Enter!



Rose Eaton Public School
Precept Bulletin Board



[^0]:    EL: 978-0-553-49908-7

