

# BOOK KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - WONDER BY R.J. PALACIO

## Important Information

### Plot

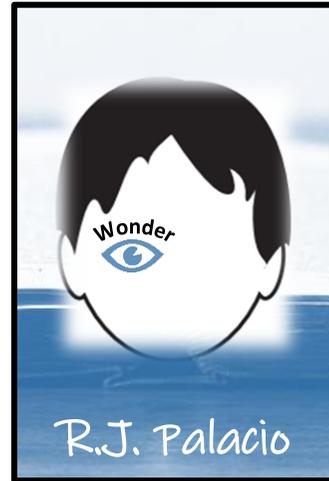
A young boy starts a new school but struggles to fit in due to a facial deformity. His classmates, family and larger community struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance.

### Themes

Prejudice, Self-Acceptance, Friendship, Bullying, Society Values, Family, Fear, Courage and Tolerance.

### Setting

Set in the continent of North America in suburban New York, they live in a place called North River in Upper Manhattan near Central Park and near August's new school, which is called Beecher Prep.



Name of Book: Wonder

Date Published: 2012

Author and Illustrator: R.J. Palacio

Reading 'Reconsidered' Spine: Year 5/6 and a Non-Linear Text

Genre: Realistic Fiction

## Characters

August Pullman (Auggie)	Protagonist - 10-year-old with rare medical facial deformity
Olivia Pullman	August's older sister
Summer Dawson	one of August's best friends
Isabel and Nate Pullman	August and Olivia's parents
Jack Will	a tough kid and August's best friend
Julian Albans	Antagonist - a student who dislikes August
Justin	Olivia's boyfriend
Miranda Navas	Olivia's friend but who also has a strong relationship with August

### What Can the Book Teach Us?

Don't hide your true self

Never judge anyone

Stand up for yourself

Choose kindness

### Quotes

*"Our deeds are our monuments."*

*"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind."*

## Key Vocabulary

cleft palate	a split or indentation on the surface of the mouth which separate the oral and nasal cavities
forewarn	to notify in advance or beforehand
precept	a rule of personal conduct
alignment	adjusting the parts of something so that they fit
contagious	capable of being transmitted by infection

## American Vocabulary

sidewalks	paths / pavements
commercial	adverts
mom	mother/mum
fifth grade	Year 6
semester	term
vacation	holiday
subway	underground
block	street
recess	breaktime
garbage / trash	rubbish
dude	friend

**Context** - Palacio wrote Wonder after an incident where she and her three-year-old son were waiting in line to buy ice cream. Her son noticed a girl with facial birth defects. Fearing he would react badly, Palacio attempted to remove her son from the situation so as not to upset the girl or her family but ended up worsening the situation. Natalie Merchant's song "Wonder" made her realise that the incident could teach society a valuable lesson. Palacio was inspired by Merchant's lyrics and she began writing.