

May 18, 2026

Hello Rising Sixth grader!

Your summer reading assignment is to read Wonder by R.J. Palacio and to complete the attached guide as you read. **The reading assignment will be due on the first day of school, Thursday, August 6, 2026.** There will be a test after we analyze the literary elements of the novel during the first couple of weeks of school. I have attached a bookmark for you to use.

As you read, you'll see that Auggie's teacher requests that the students mail postcards to him over the summer. In order to help me get to know you better, I would like to encourage you to send me a postcard from any of your summer adventures. You may also mail me a letter. Please mail to:

Allison Brown  
Mead Hall Episcopal School  
Aiken Prep Campus  
619 Barnwell Avenue, NW  
Aiken, SC 29801

As a reward, I will give you one point **extra credit** for each postcard or letter you send to me! (Limit of 10!)

I look forward to teaching you next year and cannot wait to hear of your summer adventures. Happy reading! I think you'll enjoy Wonder as much as I do!

Warmly,

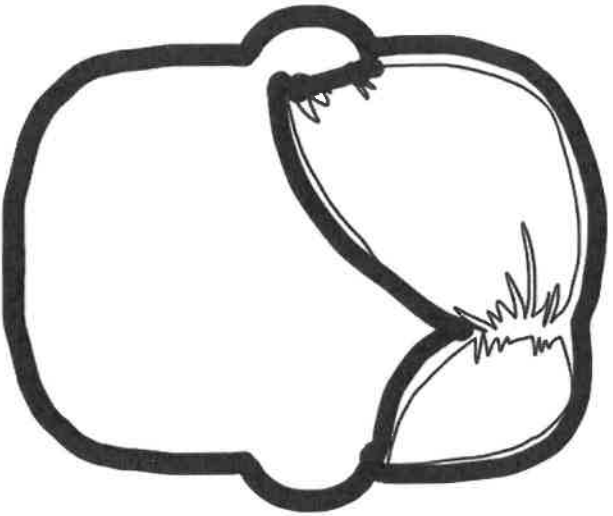
*Allison Brown*



# Wonder

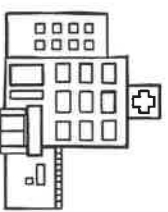
By R.J. Palacio

## Part 1: August



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### ordinary



1. How old is August?
  - a. Nine years old
  - b. Ten years old
  - c. Eleven years old
  - d. Twelve years old
2. Does August think he is ordinary or not ordinary? Explain.

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### Why I didn't go to school

3. Who is August's best friend?
  - a. Zachary
  - b. Alex
  - c. Christopher
  - d. Via
4. What do you know so far about August's mom?

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### How I came to life

6. Describe the reactions of the doctor, the nurse, August's dad, and August's mom, when August was first born.

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7. What stands out to you about August's mom's reaction? What does this tell you about her?

### Christopher's House

8. How does August react when his mom speaks to him about going to school? Use textual evidence to support your answer.

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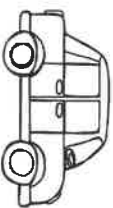
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### Driving



9. Who is Mr. Tushman?  
a. The principal.  
b. August's parent's old teacher.  
c. Via's teacher.  
d. Christopher's dad.
10. What do you think the phrase, "a lamb to the slaughter" means? Why does August's dad say this phrase?

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### Paging Mr. Tushman

11. Choose one adjective to describe Mr. Tushman, based upon his first encounter with August. Use textual evidence to support your answer.

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12. How do you think August feels when he learns that he is taking a tour of the school?

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### Nice Mrs. Garcia

13. What is August's first impression of Mrs. Garcia?

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### Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte

14. Who does Mr. Tushman introduce to August next? How do they react to August?

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### The Grand Tour

15. Where do the kids go first on their tour?  
a. The music room.  
b. The science lab.  
c. Their homeroom.  
d. The performance space.



16. What is your first impression of Julian? Explain your answer.

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### The Performance Space

17. How does Jack try to help August in this chapter? What does this tell you about Jack?

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18. What questions does Julian ask August? How do the other kids react to this?

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### The Deal

19. Why do you think August calls Mrs. Garcia's smile "shiny"?

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20. Why do you think August and his mom leave the school so abruptly?

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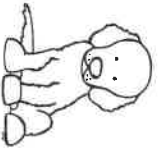
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**Home**



21. What is August's dog's name?  
a. June.  
b. Daisy.  
c. Fluffy.  
d. Scarlett.
22. After his school tour, the text says that August "felt very sad and a tiny bit happy at the exact same time, kind of like that laughing-crying feeling all over again." Why do you think he feels this way? Have you ever felt this way?

**First-Day Jitters**

23. As August gets closer to the first day of school, how do his parents' opinions about it change?
24. On the lines below, write a quote from this chapter that supports the following statement:  
*August has supportive parents.*

**Locks**

25. Name and describe some of the kids in August's homeroom.
26. What does Henry do as soon as he is told to sit next to August? Why do you suppose he does this, and how do you think this makes August feel?

**Around the Room**



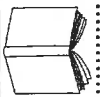
27. What does Julian share about himself? What does Charlotte share about herself? What two things would you share about yourself?
28. What does August *not* share about himself in Front of the class?  
a. He likes Star Wars.  
b. He likes science.  
c. He has a dog named Daisy.  
d. He has a sister named Via.
29. Explain how Julian was unkind to August in this chapter. What does this tell you about him?

**Choose Kind**

30. What is a precept? What is Mr. Browne's September precept? What do you think this means?
31. Mr. Browne has a plaque outside of his door that says, "Know Thyself." What does this mean to you?

**Lunch**

32. How does August feel as lunchtime begins? Use textual evidence to support your answer.



**Lunch (continued)**

33. Why does August hate the way he eats?

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**The Summer Table**

34. How and why does lunch improve for August?

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35. What is your opinion of Summer so far? Explain.

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**One to Ten**

36. Explain why this chapter is titled, 'One to Ten.'

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37. How is August behaving towards his mom? Why do you think he is acting this way?

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**Paddavan**

38. Why do you think August cuts off his braid?

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39. How does this chapter make you, as the reader, feel? Why?

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**September**

40. Why is September so hard for August? Name at least three reasons.

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41. What do you think you would do if you saw August at your school for the first time?

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**Jack Will**

42. Why do August and Jack Will laugh hysterically at the end of this chapter?

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43. What do the conversations between Jack and August in this chapter show about their relationship?

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**Mr. Browne's October Precept**

44. What is Mr. Browne's October precept? Why do you think this precept might be especially significant to August?

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**Apples**

45. Explain what August's mom means when she says, 'I guess the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.' Why does she say this?

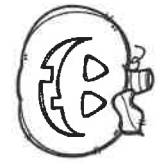
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### Halloween



46. What does Summer really want to dress up as for Halloween?  
a. A cat.  
b. A unicorn.  
c. A hobbit.  
d. The wicked witch.

47. How is Summer different from the other girls in fifth grade?

### School Pictures

48. Explain how August feels about having his picture taken.

### The Cheese Touch

49. Explain why this chapter is titled, "The Cheese Touch." How does this chapter make you feel?

### Costumes

50. What is Charlotte's Halloween costume going to be?  
a. Catwoman.  
b. Hermione.  
c. A vampire.  
d. Tinkerbell.

51. Why is Halloween August's favorite holiday?

52. What is August's original costume, and why does he end up wearing a different one?

### The Bleeding Scream

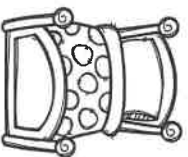
53. In detail, explain why this day at school quickly goes from being great to being terrible.

54. Were you surprised when you found out that it was Jack talking about August, in the mummy costume? Why or why not?

### Names

55. What does August tell the school nurse?  
a. He has a fever.  
b. He has a headache.  
c. He has a sore throat.  
d. He has a stomachache.

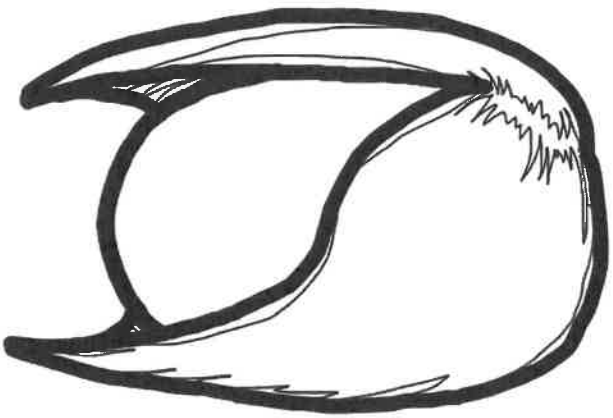
56. August's last words in this chapter are, "I was pretty sure I would never go back to school again." Do you think he should stop going to school? Why or why not?



# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

## Part 2: Via



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### A Tour of the Galaxy

1. In Via's galaxy, what is August?
  - a. The moon.
  - b. The planets.
  - c. The sun.
  - d. The asteroids.
2. Why has Via gotten used to doing most things on her own?



### Before August

3. What was the name of Via's baby doll?
  - a. Amy.
  - b. Lilly.
  - c. Olivia.
  - d. Grace.
4. According to the adults in her family, how does Via react when she first sees August?

### Seeing August

5. How does Via typically react when she sees the way people look at August? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
6. What was the happiest time in Via's life? Explain why this was the happiest time in her life.
7. Explain why this chapter is named "Seeing August."

### **Seeing August (continued)**

8. How does Grans pass away? What does Via remember the most about that day?
9. Summarize the conversation that Via has with her grandmother on the last day in Montauk. Why do you think this conversation is so important to Via?

### **August Through the Peephole**

10. In this chapter, we learn for the first time what August looks like. Write three details about August's appearance.
11. What does Via mean when she says that August needs to grow up? Why does she think this?

### **High School**

12. In this chapter, Via 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." What do you think she means by this? How do you think you are defined? Do you like or dislike how you are defined?



### **High School (continued)**

13. Summarize what Via has shared so far about her best friends.
14. Explain why this chapter is called "Major Tom."

### **Major Tom**

15. Why is Via surprised on the first day of school? Support your answer with textual evidence.

### **After School**

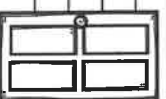
16. How and why does Via avoid riding home with Miranda?

### **The Padawan Bites the Dust**

17. Why do you think Via gets so upset about August cutting off his braid?

### **An Apparition at the Door**

18. What does Via wonder when she sees her mom standing at August's door? What does this thought show about Via?



19. Why does Via argue with her mom during breakfast?

**Breakfast**



20. Summarize what you learn about Via's ancestry in this chapter.

**Genetics 101**

21. Re-read the last sentence in this chapter. What does Via mean by it?

**The Punnett Square**

22. What happens between Via and her former best friends, Ella and Miranda?

**Out with the old**

23. List some of Via's new friends. How are her new friends different from her old friends?

24. Why is Halloween a sad time of year for Via and her mom?

**October 31**

25. What do Via and her mom do together on Halloween? Why do they get interrupted?

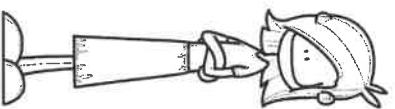
26. What does Via convince August to do?

**Trick or Treat**

27. Summarize the conversation that Via and August have, regarding his return to school. Do you agree or disagree with what Via tells August? Explain your reasoning.

**Time to Think**

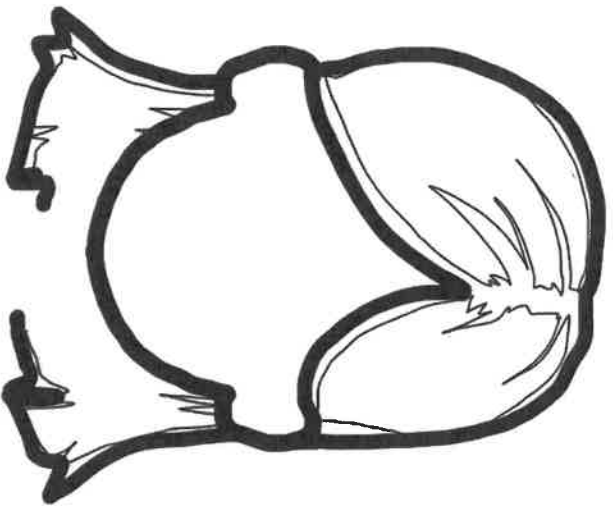
28. What does Via learn about Miranda in this chapter? How does Via react?



# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

## Part 3: Summer



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Why does Summer sit with August on the first day of school?

### Weird Kids



2. What are some things that the other kids say to Summer, regarding August? What is her opinion of this?

### The Plague

3. What does Summer like about August? Use textual evidence to support your answer.

4. Explain what "The Plague" is.

### The Halloween Party

5. What does Savanna talk to Summer about, at her Halloween party?

6. Why do you think Summer leaves the party early?

**November**

7. What accusation does August make towards Summer? How does she react?

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**Warning: This Kid is Rated R**

8. What does August learn about Summer when he goes to her house?

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**The Egyptian Tomb**

9. Why do you think Jack asks Summer about August? Do you think she was right or wrong to give him a clue?

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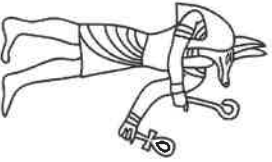
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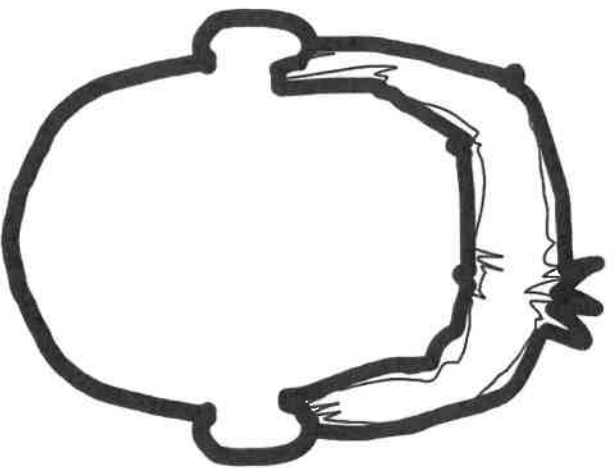
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# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

Part 4: Jack



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Call

1. Why does Mr. Tushman call Jack's parents? What is Jack's response?

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## Carvel

2. Who was Jack's babysitter when he was younger?

- a. Milley.
- b. Veronica.
- c. Chrissy.
- d. Kelly.



3. What does Jack try to remember every time he sees August around the neighborhood?

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## Why I Changed My Mind

4. Why does Jack change his mind about being a "welcome buddy" for August?

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## Four Things

5. Summarize the four things that Jack shares in this chapter. Which of these four things is the most surprising or interesting to you?

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## Ex-Friends

6. What does Jack think is good about being ex-friends with August?

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**Ex-Friends (continued)**

7. What does Jack think is bad about being ex-friends with August?

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**Snow**

8. What does Jack name his new sled?

- a. Thunder.
- b. Speed.
- c. Lightning.
- d. Flash.



**Fortune Favors the Bold**

9. Mr. Browne's December precept is: "Fortune favors the bold." What do you think this means? Write about a time in your life when you think this precept applied.

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**Private School**

10. In what ways is Jack different from some of the other kids at his school?

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**In Science**

11. What does Jack realize as he is sitting in Science class? What do you think he will do about it?

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**Partners**

12. What happens between Julian and Jack in this chapter? What causes it?

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**Detention**

13. What consequences does Jack receive from Mr. Tushman?

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**Season's Greetings**

14. What do we learn about Julian's mom in this chapter? What does this show about her?

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**Letters, Emails, Facebook, Texts**

15. What concern does Julian's mother express in her email to Mr. Tushman?

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16. Summarize how Jack and August become reunited as friends.

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**Back from Winter Break**

17. Explain what is strange at school, when Jack returns from winter break.

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**The War**

18. Summarize what Charlotte shares with Jack. What is Jack's reaction to her news?

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**Switching Tables**

19. What happens when Jack tries to switch tables?

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**Why I Didn't Sit with August the First Day of School**

20. Why does Jack call himself a hypocrite?

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**Sides**

21. Describe August's reaction when Jack accidentally mentions "the plague."

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**August's House**

22. Why does Jack go over to August's house?

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23. What does August tell Jack about his sister?

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**The Boyfriend**

24. Describe Justin. What do you, as the reader, know about him so far?

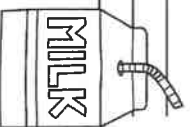
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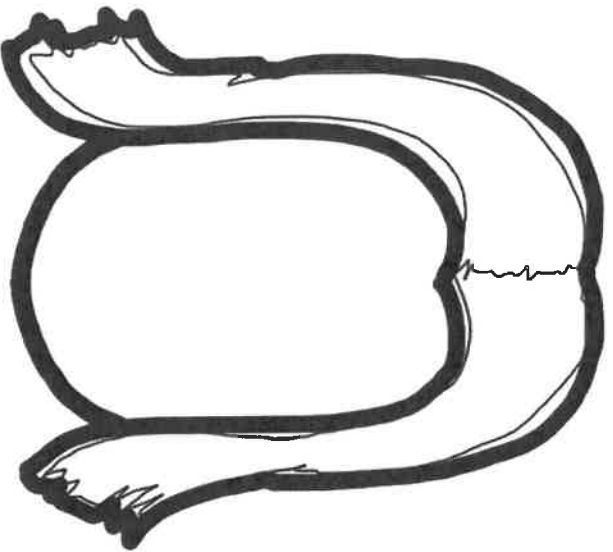
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# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

Part 5: Justin



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Olivia's Brother

1. What is your first impression of Justin? Explain.

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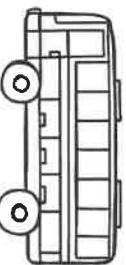
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## Valentine's Day

2. What does Justin give to Olivia for Valentine's Day?

- a. A necklace.
- b. A framed photo.
- c. A bag.
- d. A book.



3. From Justin's perspective, what is so different about Via's family?

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## OUR TOWN

4. What parts do Justin and Olivia have in the school play?

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## Ladybug

5. What do you think Olivia wishes for when she releases the ladybug? What do you think Justin wishes for?

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## The Bus Stop

6. What does Justin do after Jack gets on the bus? Why do you think he does this?

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**Rehearsal**

7. How does Justin's impression of Miranda change, as he gets to know her? Why?

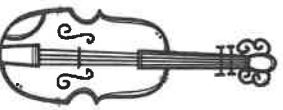
8. What does Miranda tell Justin that surprises him?

9. Why does Olivia call herself an awful person?

**Bird**

**The Universe**

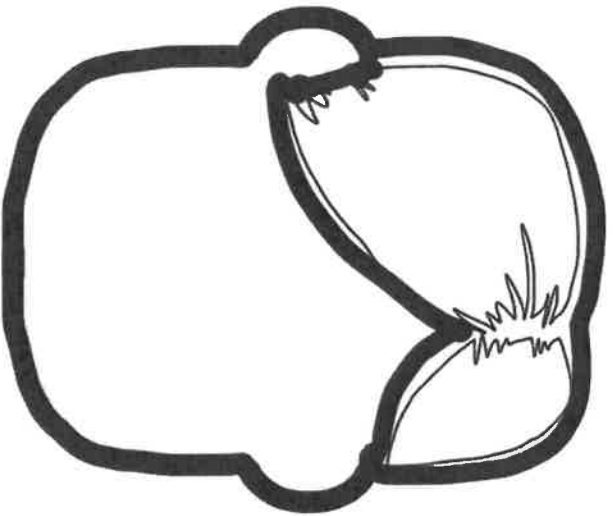
10. In this chapter, Justin writes, "no, no it's not all random, if it really was all random, the universe would abandon us completely. and the universe doesn't." What does he mean by this? Do you agree or disagree with him?



# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

Part 6: August



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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1. To what does August compare all of the 'eyes' at the Science Fair? Why does he make this comparison?

## North Pole

2. Between February and March, explain what changes in "the war."

## The Auggie Doll

3. What do you think is the significance of Maya's note and gift to Auggie?

## Lobot

4. Describe how August's hearing aids look. How does he react when he first sees them?

## Hearing Brightly

5. How does August feel when he hears with his new hearing aids?



## Via's Secret

6. Why do Via and her mom get into an argument? What does August overhear?

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**My Cave**

7. Why does August accuse his mom and Via of lying?

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**Goodbye**

8. What does Via tell August when she finally comes into his room?



9. What is the mood of this chapter? Justify your answer with textual evidence.

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**Daisy's Toys**

10. What does August learn about Daisy? What do you think this shows about August?

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11. Summarize what happens after August's parents get back home without Daisy.

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**Heaven**

12. What does August ask his mom about heaven? How does she respond? Do you agree or disagree?

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**Understudy**

13. What do we learn about Miranda's family in this chapter?

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14. Why are August and his parents surprised at the end of this chapter?

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**The Ending**

15. Describe the mood backstage, when August and his parents go to see Via after the play.

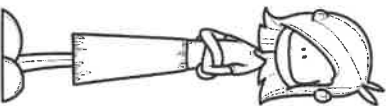
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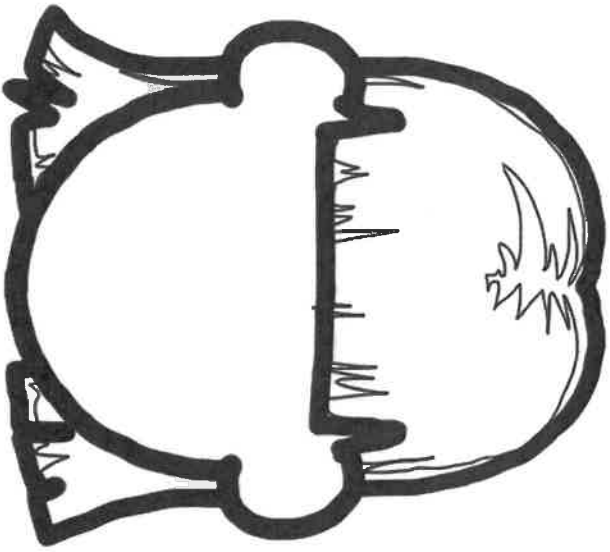
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# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

## Part 7: Miranda



Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Camp Lies**

1. What are some of the lies that Miranda tells at summer camp? What happens as a result of her lies?

2. Why does Miranda think that Ella is an "easier" friend to have?

3. Why does Miranda sign up for the theater elective?

### **School**

4. What does Miranda miss most about Via's friendship? Why does she miss this the most?

### **What I Miss Most**

5. Why is no one there to see Miranda, on her play's opening night?

### **Extraordinary, but No One There to See**

6. Why do you think that Miranda pretends to be sick right before the play begins?



**The Performance**

7. What emotions does Miranda feel as she watches the play? Justify your answer with textual evidence.

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**After the Show**

8. Now that you have read some of Miranda's perspective, has your opinion of her changed? How so? Explain.

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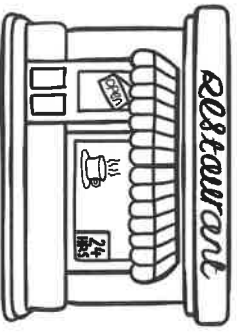
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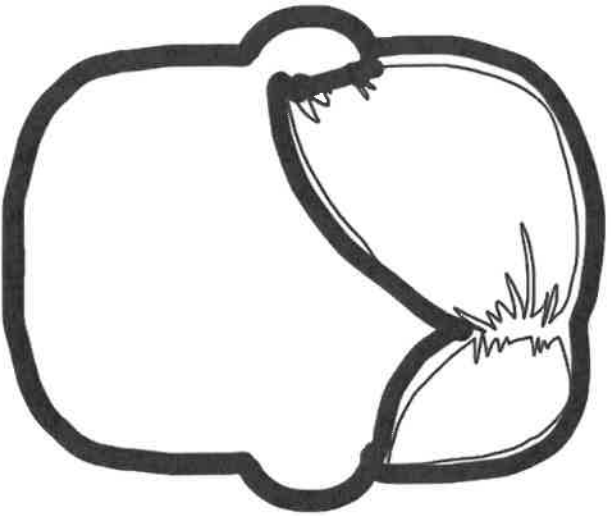
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# Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

Part 8: August



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Fifth-Grade Nature Retreat

1. What was August's only sleepover experience like?

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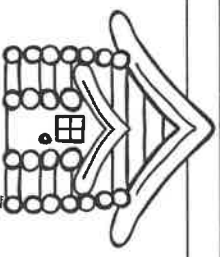
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2. What is Charlotte known for?

- a. Being really smart.
- b. Being in a commercial.
- c. Liking marine life.
- d. Liking Dungeons and Dragons.

### Known For



3. Do you agree that people are "known for" something in school? Do you think that what you are "known for" is important?

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4. Why does August pack Baboo?

### Packing

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5. What does August see when he first wakes up? How does this make him feel?

### Daybreak

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6. Explain what August does with Baboo. Why do you think he does this?

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7. Summarize Day One of the retreat.

### Day One

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### **The Fairgrounds**

8. In detail, describe the setting of the fairgrounds. Include how you imagine the sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch of the setting.

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### **Be Kind to Nature**

9. What rules and warnings are announced before the movie begins?

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### **The Woods are Alive**

10. Why do Jack and August venture into the woods? What do you predict will happen?

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### **Alien**

11. Choose one adjective to describe Eddie. Support your choice with textual evidence.

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12. Who helps August and Jack? Why is this surprising?

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### **Voices in the Dark**

13. What does August realize after they stop running?

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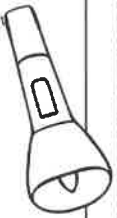
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14. How does Amos show kindness to August?



### **Emperor's Guard**

15. Explain why this chapter is titled 'Emperor's Guard.' Then, think of another suitable title for this chapter. Explain your choice.

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### **Sleep**

16. Write at least three immediate effects of the attack on August.

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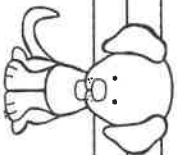
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### **Aftermath**

17. How is August feeling when he leaves camp? Use textual evidence to support your answer.

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### **Home**

18. What is August's mom's response when August asks if he will always have to worry about jerks? Do you agree or disagree with her response?

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19. What is Dad and Via's surprise?

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### **Bear**

20. Why do August and Via stay home from school? Why does August think this time is extra special?

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### **The Shift**

21. What are the huge differences that August notices when he returns to school? Be specific and detailed in your answer.

22. What surprises August when he talks to Mr. Tushman?

### **Ducks**



23. Why does August say that the night at the nature reserve was kind of bad but also kind of good?

### **The Last Precept**

24. What is Mr. Browne's June precept? What does this mean to you?

### **The Drop-off**

25. What does August's dad admit to him? How does August initially react?

### **Take Your Seats, Everyone!**

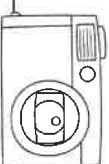
26. Describe the overall mood of this chapter.

### **A Simple Thing**

27. What does Mr. Tushman say about kindness in his speech? What do you think it means to be kind?

28. What is Beecher's definition of greatness?

### **Awards**



29. What do you think it means to "carry up the most hearts"?

### **Floating**

30. Describe what it is like for August when he walks up to accept his award.

### **Pictures**

31. Compare and contrast the August in this chapter to the August from the beginning of the book.

### **The Walk Home**

32. Why do you think August's mom calls him a wonder?