

Read and Understand

(Chapters – The Deal & Home)

1. Why do you think Mum talks about the chicks?
2. Why does August feel uncomfortable with this topic?
3. Why does August give the signal to his mum to leave?
4. Why do you think he feels ‘very sad and a tiny bit happy’?
5. August lies to his mum. Find where, and explain why he does this?
6. Why does the author have August say he wasn’t lying at the end of the chapter ‘Home’?

Dialogue

Write a section of dialogue set at a party, where the guests are being very polite but are hating every minute of it. You must include words and phrases in their speech where it isn’t obvious that the hosts and guests are unhappy but if the reader ‘reads between the lines’, they can work that out.

Here’s an example:

Marie opened the door with the hostess’ smile fixed to her face. “How pleasant it is to see you two.” Her cheekbones dropped momentarily before she quickly restored the hostess’ mask. Marie looked her up and down. “I must say, your dress is delightful, Ellie.”

Write

Reread ‘First Day Jitters’. In this section of the book, August is nervous on his first day at school. Write about an event where you felt nervous – it could be your first day at school, in a new year group, going to a party, or some other daunting event. Explain your feelings and thoughts.

Challenge! Write about how you felt prior to the event and how you felt afterwards. Compare the two feelings and write what you can learn from that experience.

Reflect and Respond

(Chapters – Home, First Day Jitters & Locks)

1. What do you think has made August’s mum and dad change sides about his attending school?
2. How does August feel on his block? Why?
3. How does the author contrast August’s block with the front of school?
4. What do you think Mrs Garcia’s ‘shiny smile’ looks like? What can you deduce about the smile?
5. Why do you think Mom talks about the chicks?



Text: Wonder (Pg 19-37)

- Paging Mr. Tushman
- Nice Mrs. Garcia
- Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte
- The Grand Tour
- The Performance Space
- The Deal
- Home
- First-Day Jitters
- Locks
- Around the Room

Author: R.J. Palacio

Explore Some More

(Chapters – Paging Mr Tushman, Nice Mrs Garcia & Jack Will)

1. Why didn’t Mr Tushman tell August about meeting the other children at the beginning of the visit?
2. On page 16, August says the school smells like a hospital. Why do you think he uses this comparison?
3. Why does August shake his head and cover his mouth? Does this action remind you of any other character’s actions earlier in the book?
4. Why didn’t Mr Tushman tell August about meeting the other children at the beginning of the visit?

Explore Some More

(Chapters – Paging Mr Tushman, Nice Mrs Garcia & Jack Will)

1. Even though he wasn’t there, how had Dad helped August cope with the meeting with Mr Tushman?
2. Do you think Mr Tushman makes a good impression on August?
3. Why doesn’t August look at Mrs Garcia’s face?
4. What does Mr Tushman’s office tell you about his attitude to his students?
5. What is a jack-o’-lantern?

Synonyms and Antonyms

Reread ‘Home’. The word ‘nice’ is repeated many times throughout the chapter. Often people use bland words like nice when they’re in a difficult situation (like August and his mum were in this scene) to disguise what they’re really thinking.

Find a range of synonyms for the bland adjective ‘nice’. Put these into sentences. Find some synonyms for ‘nice’ and put them into a couple of sentences where you might actually mean the opposite. One synonym per pair of sentences. You are allowed to be sarcastic!

Here’s an example: *That was most considerate of you, opening your car door as I was riding past on my bike. Would you mind helping me up?*

Characters

The Grand Tour

In this section of the book, you might say that Charlotte is bossy, Julian is rude and Jack is impatient. Find and highlight sentences or sections that show each of these characteristics. You’ll need to use a different colour for each character/ characteristic.

The Performance Space

Reread ‘The Performance Space’. Jack says, “Julian’s a jerk”. Find at least four pieces of evidence (text) that prove Jack’s point. For each piece of evidence, explain why it illustrates that “Julian’s a jerk”.