

Read and Understand

(Chapter - Ordinary, Why I Didn't Go To School)

1. August uses the word 'ordinary' seven times in the first paragraph, Why?
2. Find evidence to show how others react to August as not 'ordinary'?
3. Do you think there are any pictures of August's birth?
4. August mentions the operations he's had. What were the operations for? How do you know?
5. Do August's current friends treat him now the same way they previously treated him? Explain.

Anecdote

Look at 'How I Came to Life?' - August, the author uses the words 'fart' and 'farting' a lot in this anecdote. Why?

Every family has a funny anecdote that they tell and retell. An anecdote is something that really happened to a person but often the story becomes exaggerated and favourite bits become emphasised. Write one of your own family's anecdotes, making sure that you exaggerate the story to make it funny. Your anecdote needs to be based in a real-life event but should be larger-than-life to make it funny. Use a story board layout to illustrate this.

Infer What's Not There

List the events that happened in the delivery room immediately after August was born. Illustrate these events as a cartoon strip.

Find words and phrases to show that this book is set in the USA. Write the equivalent English word. Can you make a list of your own words that are different in English, e.g. candy, diaper, restroom etc.

Reflect and Respond

(Chapter - How I Came to Life)

1. What does August mean when he says, 'cracking up'?
2. What phrase tells you that August and Via have heard the story before?
3. What does Mom's expression, 'a walk in the park' mean?
4. Did the camera break into 'a million pieces'?



Text: Wonder (Pg 9 -18)

- Ordinary
- Why I Didn't Go to School
- How I Came to Life
- Christopher's House
- Diving

Author: R.J. Palacio

Connect 4

(Chapter - How I Came to Life)

1. August says the room went very quiet when he was born. Why do you think it went quiet?
2. Why do August and Via like the story so much?
3. What does the nurse mean by, 'Everyone born of God overcometh the world'?
4. What can you work out about the nurse's background from this phrase?

Explore Some More

(Chapter - How I Came to Life)

1. Why does August/the author use multiple short sentences in this section?
2. Why does the author have August say, 'so, so, so, funny!' instead of just 'so funny'?
3. Compare Mom's reaction on first seeing August compared to everyone else's reaction.
4. Why does August mention what the rest of his family look like in the final paragraph of this section?

Dialogue

Re-read 'Christopher's House'. You'll notice the author uses lots of speech on these pages.

Write an imagined scene, three years before, when Christopher first told August he was moving away. Include a variety of dialogue techniques. Use examples from this section of the book to remind you.

Examples:

Speech with action: "Then that's it, case closed," I said, shrugging.

Speech with description: "What school?" I said. I already felt like crying.

Characters

Comparing the Same Character

Re-read 'Driving'. Dad's character is quite jokey, but he can also be serious. Give examples from the text where Dad is jokey and serious.

Character Sketch

Explore the character of one of August's family by writing a character sketch for them. A character sketch means that you write about what that person is like and how they interact with others in the family and how they react to August's situation.