Read and Understand

(Chapter – Lamb to the Slaughter)

1. Ms Petosa calls August "honey". Where have you heard this language before in the book? What do you think of Ms Petosa calling him this – he's 11?
2. Julian interrupts Ms Petosa to ask August a question. Do you think Julian's interested in the answer? What does this tell you about Julian?
3. Why does Ms Petosa move the conversation on? Do you think she realises what's going on?
4. How is August sure that Julian was being insulting?

Characters

Compare the characters of Mr Browne and Ms Petosa, using evidence from the text.

To help you, create a table with two columns. One called "Evidence from the text" and the other "What I think this shows about the two teachers (inference)".

For example, the evidence is that Ms Petosa has to say "settle down" and "stop talking". Mr Browne doesn't do that; he just turns around and they're ready. This shows that Mr Browne is stricter. He doesn't have to say anything because he has more presence.

US vs. UK Vocabulary

Find words/phrases from these chapters that are used in America. See if you can write an English equivalent or a definition for each one e.g. bangs – fringe.

In the book, Connecticut and some characters from Star Wars are referred to. Either:
1. Find a list of US states and their capitals. Choose 5 of them and research a set of facts about them – major cities, population history etc.
2. Find a list of Star Wars characters. Choose 5 of them and research a set of facts about them –

Reflect and Respond

(Chapters – Lamb to the Slaughter & Summer Table)

1. What does Summer think of Ms Petosa? What do you think August might think of her?
2. Compare August feelings introducing himself to Ms Petosa and Summer and their reactions. What is the same and what is different?
3. Compare what happens just after August introduces himself to Ms Petosa and Summer. Who is in control in each of the situations?

Reflective Reading

Text: Wonder (Pg 38 - 53)

- Lamb to the Slaughter
- Choose Kind
- Lunch
- The Summer Table
- One to Ten
- Padawan
- Wake Me Up When September Ends
- Jack Will

Author: R.J. Palacio

Food Vocabulary

In the book, several US foods such as graham crackers and saltine crackers are referred to.

Research US foods that we might not have in the UK – these can be traditional dishes, common US foods or branded products.

Choose a selection of 5-10 and create a short glossary that explains to a British reader what these foods are (and if there are any UK equivalents).

Explore Some More

(Chapters – One to Ten & Padawan)

Compare August's mum and dad's reactions to his first day at school.
- How does his dad treat August?
- How does his mum treat August?
- Do you think his parents have spoken to each other before Dad comes into August's room?
- What do their reactions tell you about their different relationships with August?

Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Varying Sentences

The best authors vary their sentences according to their purpose. Short, simple sentences are used to increase pace, make a point, and to get the reader's attention. Longer sentences add detail, let you explore ideas in depth and slow the pace down.

Reread "Lunch". Write a paragraph, containing speech, describing the scene and a conversation at another table in the lunch room. Include a range of sentences and a mix of speech, action and description sentences.

Precepts

(Chapter – Choose Kind)

Precepts are rules about really important things, almost like a motto or a famous quote. August used the one "Your deeds are your monuments". Other examples include "Be true to yourself" and "Fortune favours the bold" and "Manners cost nothing."

Choose a precept and write a postcard to your teacher about what it means to you or how you feel about it. You can draw a picture to illustrate it too.