

Read and Understand

(Chapters –Voices in the Dark, The Emperors Guard, Sleep)

1. Read 'Voices in the Dark', how would you describe the structure of these pages? (How are they written?)
2. What does the structure of this section tell you about the characters at this point?
3. Explain why the next chapter is called 'The Emperor's Guard'? Who is the emperor and why?
4. In 'Sleep' the author uses the word 'same' a lot. Is this bad writing?
5. The author uses a quotation from 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' at the beginning of this chapter. Why?
6. At the end of the chapter, August remembers his dad's words, 'like a lamb to the slaughter'. Explain the synonym with reference to the 'Alien' chapter.

Mapping Emotions

(Chapter –Home)

There are lots of emotions going on in this chapter and a mix of moods. Can you map out some of the moods and emotions through the chapter and match them to paragraphs or phrases?

Here are some ideas to work from: Worry, laughter, love, family, hunger and food, funny, sad, serious, pride, gauche, learning, relief, excitement

Wonder Music

The author refers to specific songs at the beginning of sections of the book and the producer of the film version of Wonder have chosen a musical soundtrack to complement the film.

Watch the film, what do you think the music and lyrics add to the book/film.

Chose one of the songs below that relates to you and your life, what message would you take from the song:

- Natalie Merchant-Wonder
- David Bowie- Space Oddity
- Andain-Beautiful Things
- Time Myers-Life's Adventures
- Eurythmics-Beautiful Child
- Polyphonics Spree-Light and Day/ Reach for the Sun
- The Magnetic Fields- The Luckiest Guy on the Lower East Side
- Christina Aguilera-Beautiful
- Bea Miller-Brand New Eyes

Reflect and Respond

(Chapters – The Shift, Ducks, The Drop Off)

1. Describe a 'seismic' shift and a 'cosmic' shift. How does the choice of those phrases add to your understanding of August's new situation?
2. Reread 'Ducks' Can you summarise this chapter in five bullet points?
3. What's the significance of Mr Tushman calling August 'Auggie'?
4. What is the significance of August's hair on these pages and at different points in the story?
5. Can you track the changing emotions of Dad and August during their talk about the astronaut helmet? You can draw it as a roadmap (or two), annotate the text, or just discuss each shift of emotion.
6. Why does August say 'dear ol' Dad' at the end of the chapter? He doesn't seem to like those reminders of childhood.

Reflective Reading

Text: Wonder (Pg. 172-213)

- The Fifth-Grade Nature Retreat Known For
- Packing
- Daybreak
- Day One
- The Fairgrounds
- Be Kind to Nature
- The Woods Are Alive
- Alien
- Voices in the Dark
- The Emperor's Guard
- Sleep
- Aftermath
- Home
- Bear
- The Shift
- Ducks
- The Last Precept
- The Drop-Off
- Take Your Seats, Everyone
- A Simple Thing
- Awards
- Floating
- Pictures
- The Walk Home

Author: R.J. Palacio

Explore Some More

(The End of the Book)

1. August says he's 'an ordinary kid'. At the end of the book, his mum says he's 'a wonder'. Which is he? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
2. Look at the last and first paragraphs of each of the final chapters. How does the author use chapter breaks?
3. What do you think of the book? Have you learnt anything from August?
4. Has reading it changed you or your opinions in any way?

Infer What's Not There

(Chapters – The Fifth-Grade Nature Retreat, Known For, Packing, Day One)

1. Give three reasons why August might be afraid of going to the school retreat and three reasons he might be excited.
2. August says that Star Wars is 'special' to the doctor who put his hearing aids in, earlier in the book. Do you think the doctor likes is as much as August?
3. Why does August correct his mum- 'Three days and two night'?
4. Reread 'Day One', why hasn't Julian come on the trip?
5. In 'Day One' August mentions that he's seen the sky look like this in Montauk. When had he been to Montauk and who lived there?

Transformation

(Chapters – The Fifth-Grade Nature Retreat, Known For, Packing)

In this scene, you could say that August and his mum are dealing with him transforming from a child to a teenager (one of the many scenes in this part of the book). Complete the table by picking out evidence to support this argument.

Child	Teenager

Compare Eddie and Julian. In what ways are they similar and in what ways are thy different? What might have stopped Julian becoming an Eddie?

Aliens

(Chapter-The Fairgrounds)

August talks about a moment from a movie about aliens. This isn't the only time in Wonder that aliens or space are mentioned. The author mentions the scene from this film deliberately. In this particular part of the movie, aliens communicate with earth through musical notes. It is strange at first, and people are a little scared by it, but the spaceship is teaching humans a new language so that they can communicate better.

How is this like August and the people around him? Be as detailed as you can in your answer and give evidence.

Aliens is just one theme from the book. What other themes have you spotted so far in the book? Can you give examples and explain your choices?