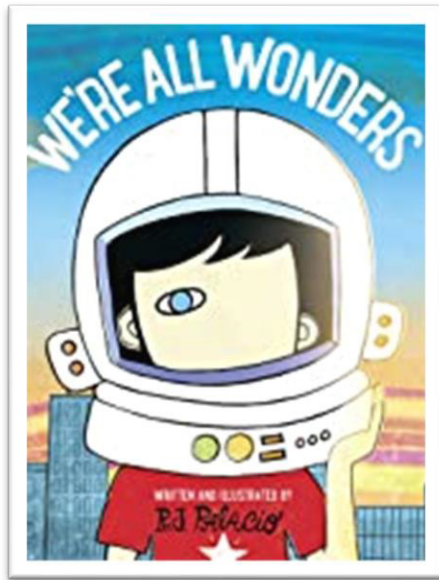


Read for Pleasure

We're All Wonders

By R. J. Palacio



I know I can't change the way I look.
But maybe, just maybe, people can
change the way they see...

Auggie knows he's not an ordinary kid. He
does plenty of ordinary things. He feels
ordinary. He just doesn't look ordinary.

But it's not just Auggie who's different.
Everyone is different, and everyone is a
wonder – if only they could see it.



Title Talk

The title of this story is: We're All Wonders.

- This book's title is made up of three words. Look at the first word: WE'RE. Is this formal or informal? Why do you think WE'RE is used in this title and not WE ARE?
- Look at the second word: ALL. Who is included with the used of this word?
- Look at the third word: WONDERS. What do you think this might mean?

Cover Chat

Now let's look at the cover of this picture book.

- Here we see a boy wearing a space helmet. What else do you notice about him?
- How might this make him feel about himself? Why might this be?
- How might others treat him because of the way he looks? Would this be kind? Why not? Discuss.

- We also see that he lives in a place where many others live – a city landscape dominates the skyline behind him. Might this be significant?
- Why do you think this character is wearing a space helmet? Discuss.
- Look closely at the helmet. There are smudges and lines that make this illustration far from perfect. And yet it is still a lovely drawing. Might these imperfections have been drawn deliberately? Why might this be?
- What might this also suggest about how this story will ...
A] begin, B] develop and C] end?

Page 1-4

- This story is written informally and in first person. This helps us to connect with the book's main character, it helps us to sympathise and empathise with him. Compare and contrast the statement he makes on page 1 with what we see and read on pages 2-4. Fill in the table below.

An ordinary kid	Not an ordinary kid

Page 5-6

- We learn the name of this character on page 5. What is it?
- On page 6, we see a gallery of faces hung like portraits on a wall. Who do you think these faces belong to?
- Look at each of these portraits. What do you notice about A] how they look and B] the background colour each individual has been placed on? Compare this to Auggie's portrait on page 5.
- Discuss how different our own portrait would be if it were to be added to this gallery.

Page 7-8

- What does Auggie's mum tell him he is?
- Why do you think Auggie's mum tells him this?
- Why do you think Auggie's dog, Daisy, agrees with her?
- Look at the word UNIQUE. What does this word mean?



- On page 7 we see Auggie and Daisy stood on top of the world, Auggie wearing a crown and a T-shirt with a star on it. This page is full of happiness, confidence and positivity. Is this the case with what we read and see on page 8?
- What do some people NOT see? What do they see instead?
- Is this A] fair and B] kind? Discuss.
- Interestingly, we only see half of Auggie's face on page 8. Which half do we see or, more importantly, which half remains hidden?
- What might this tell us about how Auggie feels when people only see what is different about the way he looks?

Page 9-10

- On page 9 we see the other half of Auggie's face, the half that looks different, the half that was hidden on the previous page. When people notice how different Auggie looks, what do they sometimes do?
- How would this make Auggie feel?
- How would this make you feel if it happened to you?
- Look at the illustration on page 10. Remember, we have seen these people before on page 6. Which of these characters is...
 - * Pointing?
 - * Staring?
 - * Covering their eyes?
 - * Talking about Auggie behind his back?
- What might these characters be thinking or saying at this time? Discuss.
- Would Auggie notice this? How would this make him feel?



Page 11-12

- How do the negative actions we see on page 10 impact Auggie's feelings?
- Why might these negative actions and feelings impact Daisy too?
- How is this depicted on page 11?
- Interestingly, the star on his T-shirt is partially hidden, as is the side of Auggie's face that makes him look different. Why might this be? Discuss.

Page 13-14

- When does Auggie put on his space helmet?
- Interestingly, now that he is wearing his space helmet, we see both the star on his T-shirt and his face in full. Why might this be?
- Might this be why he also puts a space helmet on his trusted friend Daisy too?
- Do you notice a bluebird flying on page 14? What might this be a symbol of? Discuss.



Page 15-18

- Where does Auggie's imagination take him?
- Why do you think it takes him far away from where he lives and goes to school? Discuss.
- How is this depicted by the illustrator?
- Interestingly, a bluebird (often a symbol of happiness) joins them on their journey across the galaxy. Have you seen this bluebird before? If so, where and when was this?
- Why do you think this bluebird is accompanying Auggie and Daisy on their adventure in outer space?



Page 19-20

- To which planet does Auggie go?
- Why do you think he visits Pluto and not a planet that is nearer to Earth, such as Mars or Venus?
- Who does he meet when he arrives there?
- What do you notice about how these aliens look? Is this significant?
- Might this also be why he calls them OLD FRIENDS? Discuss.

Page 21-22

- Here we see Auggie and Daisy (and the bluebird) looking at planet Earth in the distance. Earth looks small, much like the troubles that have caused Auggie to feel sad and lonely. Revisit pages 9-10. Which of the three paragraphs on page 21 would you say is A] the most comforting to Auggie and B] the most important for us, the reader, to consider? Discuss.

Page 23-26

- Consider the words Auggie now says:

"I know I can't change the way I look. But maybe, just maybe, people can change the way they see."

How powerful a message is this this? Discuss the impact this has on us, the reader.

- As well as Auggie, Daisy and the bluebird, who else do we see on page 25? If need be, refer back to page 6 to find your answer.
- What is he doing? Why do you think he is doing this?
- What does this tell us about this character?
- Would you be kind enough to act in the same way? Discuss.



Page 27-28

- Look at the words on page 28. Where have we seen these words before?
- How are we ALL wonders? Discuss. If possible, reflect on the answer we first gave when discussing the book's title. Have we changed our opinion while reading this story? If so, how and why might this be?
- If you look carefully, the sentence on page 28 differs slightly from the book's title. How so? Does the exclamation mark change the way we read this sentence? How so?
- Do you think adding the exclamation mark was a good idea? Why? Discuss.
- We also see the bluebird (a symbol of happiness and friendship) flying from Auggie to Tadeo. Might this be significant?

Page 29

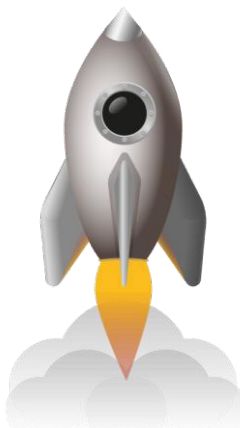
- Discuss the sentence on the final page. How important is KINDNESS?
- How can we show kindness to others, especially to those who may look different from ourselves?
- The illustrator has drawn the planet Earth on this page. Can you spot it?
- Why do you think Earth has been drawn as the pupil of Auggie's eye? Discuss the significance of this.

Think about the book as a whole

What do you think the main message of this book is?

Relate it to the banner we see flying above Auggie that reads:

CHOOSE KIND.



The perfect companion to
Reading Rocketeers: **Unit 2.4**

John Murray

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John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Dr Seuss