

File 14 p. 150 • *Wonder*, first excerpt

I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary.

Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

[...] But I'm kind of used to how I look by now. I know how to pretend I don't see the faces people make. We've all gotten pretty good at that sort of thing: me, Mom and Dad, Via. [...]

Via doesn't see me as ordinary. She says she does, but if I were ordinary, she wouldn't feel like she needs to protect me as much. And Mom and Dad don't see me as ordinary, either. They see me as extraordinary. I think the only person in the world who realizes how ordinary I am is me.

My name is August, by the way. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*, Part I, 2013

File 14 p. 151 • Wonder review

Wonder ★★★★★

Based on the *New York Times* bestseller by R.J. Palacio, this movie tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who enters the fifth grade, attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time.

imbd.com, 2017

Mum

“Honey,” Mum said. [...] We spoke to the principal¹ there and told him about you and he really wants to meet you.”

“What did you tell him about me?”

“How funny you are, and how kind and smart. When I told him you read *Dragon Rider* when you were six, he was like, ‘Wow, I have to meet this kid’.”

“Did you tell him anything else?” I said.

Mom smiled at me. Her smile kind of hugged me.

“I told him about all your surgeries², and how brave you are,” she said.

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Dad

“So, Auggie Doggie,” he said, “it was really an okay day?” He got that from an old cartoon about a dachshund³ named Auggie Doggie, by the way. He had bought it for me on eBay when I was about four, and we watched it a lot for a while—especially in the hospital. He would call me Auggie Doggie and I would call him “dear ol’ Dad,” like the puppy called the dachshund dad on the show.

“Yeah, it was totally okay,” I said, nodding.

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My sister Via

I never used to see August the way other people saw him. I knew he didn’t look exactly normal, but I really didn’t understand why strangers seemed so shocked when they saw him. Horrified. Sickened. Scared. There are so many words I can use to describe the looks on people’s faces. And for a long time I

didn't get it. I'd just get mad. Mad when they stared⁴. Mad when they looked away. "What the heck are you looking at?" I'd say to people—even grown-ups⁵.

R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*, 2012

1. headmaster
2. *opérations*
3. *teckel*
4. *dévisager*
5. adults

File 14 p. 152 • *Wonder*, third excerpt

Introduction: After being homeschooled by his mum for years, Auggie starts attending a public school...

Being at school was awful in the beginning. Every new class I had was like a new chance for kids to “not stare” at me. [...] Five hundred kids in a school: eventually every one of them was going to see my face at some point. And I knew after the first couple of days that word had gotten around about me, because every once in a while, I'd catch a kid elbowing¹ his friend as they passed me, or talking behind their hands as I walked by them. I can only imagine what they were saying about me. Actually, I prefer not to even try to imagine it.

I'm not saying they were doing any of these things in a mean way, by the way: not once did any kid laugh or make noises or do anything like that. They were just being normal, dumb kids. I know that. [...]

It took about one week for the kids in my class to get used to my face. [...] It took about a month for the rest of the kids in the entire school to get used to it. None of them looked at me.

R. J. Palacio, *Wonder*, part I, 2013

1. *donner un coup de coude*

File 14 p. 152 • Wonder, fourth excerpt

Introduction: During a field trip¹, Auggie and his friend Jack get into a fight with older kids who insulted Auggie's face. Boys from their class come to their rescue and help them escape.

"Are you sure we lost them?" Henry asked, letting go of my arm. That's when I realised that he'd been the one who was pulling me as we ran.

"Whoa! That was intense!" [...]

"They looked like jerks."

"He was like, 'Are you a freak, too?' and you were like, *bam!*" said Jack.

"Bam!" said Amos, throwing a fake punch in the air. "But after I tackled² him, I was like, run Amos, you schmuck³, he's ten times bigger than you! And I got up and started running as fast as I could!"

We all started laughing. [...]

"Yo, dudes," said Jack, hand high in the air. "That was really cool of you guys to come back for us. Really cool. Thanks."

"No problem," answered Amos, high-fiving Jack. And then Miles and Henry high-fived him, too.

"Yeah, dudes, thanks," I said, holding my palm⁴ up like Jack just had, though I wasn't sure if they'd high-five me, too.

Amos looked at me and nodded. "It was cool how you stood your ground, little dude," he said, high-fiving me. [...] "You're one brave little dude, you know that?" said Amos, putting his arm around my shoulders. And when I kept on crying, he put both his arms around me like my dad would have done and let me cry.

R. J. Palacio, *Wonder*, Part VIII, 2013

1. school trip

2. *plaquer*

3. idiot

4. *paume de la main*