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“Wonder” Discussion Questions

Directions: As you read, answer each question. Please remember to restate the question, answer it, and use text detail to support your claim. You may use the book to help you.

Note: Check out this blog! It gives some great visuals and a model of thinking as you read the novel! <http://mrwreads.blogspot.com/2012/03/wonder-read-aloud-resources.html>

**Part 1: Auggie**

**Ordinary:**

1. What do you think of the line "Don’t judge a boy by his face" which appears on the back cover of the book? Did this affect how much you wanted to read the story? How much did this line give away about the story you were about to read?
2. In the first pages of the novel, Auggie wishes for a magic lamp and one wish. What is his one wish? Why do you think this is what he wants? What would your one wish be? Why?
3. Have you ever “looked-away” from someone like others to to Auggie? Put yourself into his shoes and describe how it makes him feel based on what you know about him from this first chapter.

**Why I Didn’t Go to School:**

1. If you were home schooled what would your day look like? If you could create your own schedule for a day, what would it look like? Explain why you made the choices that you made.
2. Auggie states that maybe he’s making a big deal about not being invited to many parties? Is he being truthful with the reader? Explain your thinking about this statement.
3. What is the reason that Auggie has not been to school yet? Why do other people believe he has never been in a real school?

**How I Came To Life:**

1. Using details from the chapter, describe what happened the day Auggie was born.
2. Describe how Auggie’s mom remembers his day of birth.

**Christopher’s House:**

1. This chapter is not really about Christopher’s house…..what really is this chapter about? Summarize.
2. Which character feels that Auggie is not really ready for school? Why do they feel this way?
3. Who wins the argument over Auggie going to school? What reasons help make the decision?

**Driving:**

1. Dad says taking Auggie to school is like bringing a lamb to slaughter? What does that mean? Why does he feel this way?
2. Why does Auggie get upset with his mother over “the test” he had to take? Do you think his mom was honest with him? How would you feel I this situation?

**Nice Mrs. Garcia:**

1. What are Auggie’s first impressions of Mrs. Garcia? Why does he like her right away?
2. What does Mrs. Garcia do that only Auggie would notice?

**Jack Will, Julian, and Charlotte**

1. Describe Auggie’s appearance when he meets his peers. What do the boys do when they first shake hands with him?
2. Who knew how Auggie was feeling those first moments at this new school? Explain how you know this information using evidence from the text.

**The Grand Tour/Performance Space**

1. How does Julian act as he gives his tour. What do you think this tells us about his character?
2. How does Jack Will initiate a conversation with Auggie when he doesn’t have much to say on the tour. Do you think he is being kind or not? Explain using text details.
3. Auggie tells the kids he will be taking the science elective. How do the kids react? Do you think this will give him respect in school? Explain using details from the chapters and your own predictions.

**The Deal/Home**

1. Why do you think Auggie uses his “signal” to get his mom to leave?
2. Despite the way Juilian treats him, why does Auggie make sure he tells Mr. Tushman that all of the kids were nice? Was he sincere about this? What do we learn about him as a character from this comment?
3. Mom asks if Julian was “the type of kid who’s one way in front of grown-ups and another way in front of kids…..” (p. 34) What does this statement mean to you? Have you ever had an experience like this? Can you connect to how Auggie is feeling from this conversation about school? Why or why not?

**First Day Jitters/Lamb to the Slaughter**

1. Describe what Auggie finds when he googles the “lamb to the slaughter” statement. Do you think this statement is accurate of his first classes in school?
2. How does Auggie know that Julian is being rude to him in front of the class?

**Choose Kind:**

1. What is a **precept**? Predict the role these montly precepts will play in the plot of the novel?
2. Explain Mr. Browne’s September precept in your own words. Do you agree with his precept? Explain why/why not?
3. Find your own precept and write it down on a page in your notebook. As you continue reading, find quotes and text evidence that would support your precept. You will be sharing these in book club, so make the page look cool! Remember, you can always add to, find more, and change your precepts as you continue to read.

**Lunch/The Summer Table:**

1. Via warns Auggie about lunch in middle school? Describe lunch in his school. How is it similar/different than lunch at SOMS?
2. Add Summer to your list of characters for the novel. What are your first impressions of her as a character? Support your thoughts with evidence of her words, actions, and how Auggie thinks and feels about her in this chapter.

**One to Ten/Padawan**

1. How did your first day of middle school compare to Auggie’s? What number would you give it on a scale of 1-10? Explain what was similar or different between your day and his?
2. Auggie asks his mom why he has to be so ugly at the end of this chapter. Why does he cry?

**Wake me Up When September Ends-Jack Will**

1. How is Auggie adjusting to school? Based on his “September” how has his life changed? What problems does he have now that he did not have before he went to school?
2. Jack Will seems like he is becoming a friend. How do you know this? Use details from the chapters to prove he is different than the other characters.

**Mr. Browne’s October Precept**

1. What do you think the precept “Your deeds are your monuments” means? Can you connect it to your personal life? To school (think social studies or science….what have people done in the past that they are remembered for today)
2. How can we use the October precept to inspire our school/class mates/community? Develop a plan that could take these words to the world outside of our classroom.

**Apples**

1. Why does Auggie invite his entire homeroom to his birthday party? What does this tell him about him as a character? Do you think he is often invited to parties? Support your response with text evidence.
2. What do the responses to the party tell us about his classmates?

**Halloween- The Cheese Touch**

1. Re-read the chapter “School Pictures” explain why you think Auggie has an “aversion” to having his picture taken. What does he mean when he says “I didn’t smile, not that anyone could tell if I had.” (p. 70)
2. What does Auggie notice about his classmates (he first notices it in dance class, and then in science elective) why does this realization NOT rattle him? Reflect on that…..and his character based on this realization.

**Costumes-Names:**

1. Explain why Halloween is Auggie’s favorite holiday. Do you think most kids would agree with his reasons for loving it so much? Why or why not.
2. Auggie states: “I wish every day could be Halloween. We could all wear masks all the time. We could walk around and get to know each other before we got to see what we looked like under the mask.” (p. 73) Explain this quote in your own words. What are you thoughts about this statement?
3. How does Auggie’s last minute decision to change his costume affect his enjoyment of Halloween?
4. Predict: How will Auggie treat Jack Will when he returns to school?

**Part 2: Via**

**A Tour of the Galaxy-August through the Peephole**

1. When introduced to Via as our new speaker, we learn something very important about her from the first paragraph. What do we learn? Why does she compare her family to space, using August (Auggie) as the sun?
2. Why does Via claim that “this year there seems to be a shift in the cosmos” and that the “planets are falling out of alignment?” (p. 83)
3. Via thinks her family has spent so much helping Auggie feel “normal” so that he feels like he is. She thinks the problem is that he now thinks he is “normal.” Based on what you know about Auggie, do you think her thinking is correct? Explain with text evidence.

**High school-Breakfast**

1. What does Via love most about middle school, and now high school?
2. Why do you think Via avoids telling her mother about her first day of school and the “new Miranda?” What does this tell us about her as a character?
3. Why do you think Via’s dad pushes for her to take the subway alone?

**Genetics 101-The Punnett Square**

1. Via knows an awful lot about her family history, their genetics etc. What are genes? Do all genes get passed on to every person born into a family?
2. Via’s understanding of the genetics of her family is quite detailed. What does this tell you about her as a character?

**Out with the Old-Time to Think**

1. Why does Via stay home on Halloween? Why does she enjoy this mother/daughter time so much? How does she react when it ends suddenly?
2. How this Halloween/the parade/their similar issues with school and friends bring Auggie and Via closer together?

Part 3: Summer

**Weird Kids-The Halloween Party**

1. Discuss why the author chooses song lyrics from the song “Beautiful” to begin this section, which is from Summer’s point of view?
2. Why is Summer so surprised by the attention she gets for hanging out with Auggie?
3. Why do you think Summer is excited to go to Savanna’s party, even though it seems like she may not enjoy it (no costumes, no Halloween parade? Does the party seem like it was worth it for her to miss the things she wanted to do?

**November-The Egyptian Tomb**

1. After the party, Summer makes up stories. How does she handle the situation after the party? Do you think she made the right choice?
2. How does Auggie’s description of his deformity to Summer demonstrate his strong spirit?
3. Why does Summer give Jack Will a hint about Auggie’s anger even though she promised not to say anything. What does this tell us about her character?

**Part 4: Jack**

**The Call-Why I Changed my Mind**

1. How did Jack react the first time he saw Auggie? What did he babysitter mean when she said, “….sometimes you don’t have to mean to hurt someone to hurt someone?” (p. 137) Do you think he remembers those words when he first refuses to meet Auggie at school?
2. Jack changes his mind about meeting August after talking to his mom and Jamie. What can we infer about him as a character based on this decision?

**Four Things-Fortune Favors the Bold**

1. List the four reasons why Jack thinks Auggie is a “really cool dude.”
2. What is the Plague? Why do the other kids say Auggie has it? What are they afraid of when they say he has the Plague?
3. December’s precept is “Fortune Favors the Bold.” Why does Jack choose to write about the ocean over befriending Auggie? Have you ever done something bold that you were rewarded for? Write about it.

**Private School-Detention**

1. Why is Jack first thrilled and proud of his sled, and then ashamed by it?
2. Jack seems like he doesn’t really fit in with Julian and the other kids. What differences do you notice about him? Explain using text evidence.
3. Why does Jack punch Julian? Did he deserve it? Why do you think he chooses not to tell Mr. Tushman the real reasons for his actions?

**Seasons Greetings-Back from Winter Break**

1. Do you think Jack’s note to Julian was sincere? Do you think he meant it? Explain.
2. Why does Mrs. Albans email Mr. Tushman? Why do you think he responds in the way that he does?
3. How does the author’s use of different media formats in this section contribute to the novel’s believability? Why do you think the author chooses to include this in the plot?
4. Does Jack get a clean slate after the winter break? Why do you think he gets treated the way that he does when they return to school?

**The War-August’s House**

1. Why do you think Charlotte tells Jack about Julian’s plot?
2. Why does Jack feel guilty about sitting with Auggie and Summer now?
3. Jack is very nervous about going to Auggie’s house to work on the science project. What are his reasons for feeling this way?

Part 5: Justin

**Olivia’s Brother-The Bus Stop**

1. Why do you think the author decides to change up the writing style here (making capital letters lowercase, omitting punctuation etc.) what do you think this tells us about Justin as a character? Be prepared to discuss this in book club.
2. Why is Justin surprised by Auggie’s appearance even though Via has already described it? What does his actual reaction reveal about him?
3. What does Justin mean when he says that Via “is a girl who sees everything?”
4. What does Justin realize about Jack when they are waiting for the bus? How and why does Justin attempt to help Jack?

**Rehearsal-The Universe**

1. Why do you think Miranda chooses to tell Justin about her past with via and Auggie? And show him the picture of the helmet? What does it say about her character?
2. Describe your thoughts as Via admits to Justin that she hasn’t said anything about the show to her family? Do you empathize with her?

**Part 6: Auggie**

**North Pole-Hearing Brightly**

1. What indicators signal that “the war” was slowly ending?
2. Auggie states throughout the novel that he was used to people staring at him. Why do you think getting the hearing aids upsets him so much then?
3. What does Auggie mean when he says “my ears were hearing brightly” now? How do the students at school react to them?

**Via’s Secret-Heaven**

1. Via screams at her mom: “You’ve been really good at leaving me alone my whole life, so why you choose highschool to suddenly be interested I have no idea…..” (p. 216) causes silence from her mother. What do you think her mom was saying? Thinking? Feeling? Discuss this using evidence from the text.
2. How does the situation with Daisy help Auggie gain perspective on his life? Via’s life? How does it help him grow up a little?
3. How is Auggie coping with his loss? Why does he make note that Daisy never noticed his face?

Understudy

1. Describe the reactions to Via stepping in at the last minute to act in the play. How do you think she is feeling at this moment in time.
2. Predict: If Miranda was “sick”…..then why is she at the play?

**Part 7: Miranda**

**Camp Lies-After the Show**

1. Why do you think Miranda lies at camp? Why does she choose to lie about having a brother with a deformity?
2. Miranda doesn’t call Via when she returns from camp. Why does she do this? Does her perspective and point of view of her summer change your feelings about her?
3. Why does Miranda fake her illness right before the play? Do you think this may change things for their friendship? Why does Via insist she join her family for dinner?

**Part 8: August**

**The Fifth Grade Nature Retreat-Packing**

1. Why is Auggie so anxious about the field trip to the nature reserve? Have you ever been anxious and excited about something? Tell your story.
2. Auggie says everyone is known for something in middle school. What do you want to be known for?
3. Auggie starts reading “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” after he finishes packing. Why does the author choose to quote the piece of text at the end of the chapter? Explain how this quote connects to Auggie as a character who has changed throughout the novel.

Daybreak-Aftermath

1. Describe the situation in the chapter “Aliens.” Why do you think the author titled the chapter that?
2. What does Auggie learn about his peers after the situation with the older kids?

Home-The Shift

1. How does Auggie’s mom prove that she has faith in people in her conversation with Auggie in the kitchen? (p. 279)
2. How does Bear symbolize (represent) a new chapter in the Pullman’s lives?
3. Describe “the shift” that Auggie notices when he returns to school after the trip.

**Ducks**-**The Last Precept**

1. Mr. Tushman and Auggie discuss the school year. What are your thoughts about Mr. Tushman as a principal? What traits do you think he possesses? Why?
2. Why does Auggie choose to make his self portrait a duck? What animal would you choose as your self portrait as an animal? Why? Draw it and discuss with your book club.
3. What does the June precept mean?
4. Find a quote/song lyric/statement/poem line to be your precept –OR-Create your own precept and explain why you chose it. Be ready to share with your book club.

**The Drop Off-**

1. Why did Auggie’s dad throw the astronaut helmet away? Why is Auggie angry at first, and then understanding of his dad’s actions?
2. Why do you think Mr. Tushman chooses the line “Kinder than is necessary?” How can we use that line in our daily lives? In school? The community? The world?
3. What does Mr. Tushman mean when he states that Auggie is “the greatest…..whose strength carries up with most hearts.” (p. 304) Do you agree with him? Explain why Auggie is deserving of this award.

**Floating-Appendix**

1. Decribe how Auggie has changed from the beginning to the end of the novel. Use evidence from the beginning, middle, and end of novel to support this.
2. What does Julian’s precept suggest about his character?
3. Choose one of Mr. Browne’s or the students precepts and explain its meaning and why you chose it. Why does this precept strike a chord with you?