

99+ For creating a Better Society ~ an initiative by IIMC and YB*

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11 April 2024

"Wonder" by R.J. Palacio is a powerful and heartwarming novel that tells the story of August Pullman, a fifth-grade boy with a facial deformity called Treacher Collins syndrome. The narrative follows August, also known as Auggie, as he navigates his first year attending a mainstream school after being homeschooled for most of his life. The book is divided into different perspectives, allowing readers to see the impact of Auggie's presence on those around him, including his family, friends, and classmates.

As Auggie navigates the challenges of fitting in at school and facing bullying and prejudice, "Wonder" explores themes of kindness, empathy, acceptance, and the importance of embracing differences. Despite the initial discomfort and curiosity of his classmates, Auggie's courage, humor, and resilience gradually win them over, leading to unexpected friendships and moments of compassion.

Throughout the novel, Auggie's journey is not just about overcoming the physical challenges of his condition but also about learning to accept himself and find his place in the world. His experiences teach both children and adults alike valuable lessons about the power of empathy, the beauty of diversity, and the importance of choosing kindness in the face of adversity.

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One of the key takeaways of "Wonder" is the idea that kindness has the power to change lives and that everyone, regardless of their appearance or differences, deserves to be treated with respect and understanding. The novel encourages readers to look beyond surface judgments and stereotypes and to see the humanity in others.

Overall, "Wonder" is a touching and inspirational story that has resonated with readers of all ages since its publication. It serves as a reminder of the impact that small acts of kindness can have and inspires readers to choose empathy and compassion in their interactions with others.