

Wonder Text Set

When August Pullman’s mom insists he enroll in a mainstream school for fifth grade, August and his dad are reluctant. Auggie was born with a severe facial deformity and has been homeschooled his whole life. His dad worries that sending Auggie to middle school will be like “sending a lamb to the slaughter,” and once he learns the meaning of that phrase, Auggie agrees. Readers learn his story from Auggie, his sister, his classmates, and others. This text set explores the themes of bullying, kindness, and overcoming adversity.

Essential Questions

1. How can kids overcome adversity?
2. What impact does adversity have on a community?
3. How do authors build characters? What clues do readers look for to better understand characters?
4. How does point of view influence the description of an event?

Informational Paired Text

These *TIME for Kids* articles can be used to discuss the themes in *Wonder*.

1. **“Face of Courage”** (November 6, 2017) Jacob Tremblay talks about what it’s like to play Auggie in the film adaptation of *Wonder*. The movie trailer can be found at the end of the article.
2. **“Teacher’s Pup”** (September 21, 2018) The Mutt-i-grees program takes dogs into schools to help students develop empathy and build positive relationships.
3. **“Show Kindness, Model Respect”** (November 9, 2018) Caryl M. Stern coauthored a book called *Hate Hurts*. Here, she provides some tips on how to help create a kinder environment.
4. **“Inspiring Educators”** (April 27, 2018) Five successful people write about a teacher who had an impact on their life.
5. **“Bullies, Beware!”** (December 19, 2014) Digital tools could provide a solution to bullying in schools.
6. **“A Book About Bullies”** (October 1, 2010) A writing workshop in Florida asks students to consider both sides of bullying.

Optional Extensions

1. Activity

A precept is defined as “a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought.” At the end of *Wonder*, Mr. Browne asks each student to mail a postcard with his or her personal precept. For this activity, students will create a postcard with a precept of their choice, but it must be one intended to spread kindness or acceptance. On the front of the postcard, students should write the precept and add decoration. On the back, they should explain the precept. Then ask students to give their postcard to someone. It can be a friend, a family member, or a stranger. Open up a discussion of people’s reactions to the cards and how students felt passing them along.

2. Writing Assignment

After reading “A Book About Bullies” (*TFK*, October 1, 2010), open a discussion about empathy (putting yourself in someone else’s shoes). Then ask students to choose a chapter from the book and write it from Julian’s point of view. Have them consider why Julian acts the way he does and how he thinks about certain situations.

