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Essay Research

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November/December book report on “Wonder”

Wonder

Want to read a book that’s entertaining for kids, but also impactful for adults and young adults? Then Wonder by R.J Palacio is the book for you. Wonder was a very fun book to read and I found it hard to put it down. It shares simple, yet impactful messages through August Pullman, his friends, and his family while also telling an engaging story.

R.J Palacio not only does an amazing job writing the voice of a fifth grader, but also does a great job sharing the story the way August sees it. Life is more of a challenge for him in more ways than one and his dad once described him, without August’s knowing, as a “Sheep to the slaughter”. But even though the rest of the world may see August as something frightening or unnatural, he sees himself for what he is, a fifth-grade kid who likes Star Wars and tries to be kind to everyone. Through his trial in life and his fun personality, August shows the reader that no matter what you look like or what your disability may be, what matters most is who you are on the inside and how you treat others.

Few books let us see different characters point of views, which is one reason Wonder stands out among the rest. We get to hear the story from six different people and see how the events of the story affect each one of them. I especially liked the part in the story that is told

from Olivia, August's older sister. Like Olivia, I too have a little brother who tends to stand out in a crowd and I appreciated her telling of how living with August has affected her. While our brothers may be very different, I can relate to some of the hardships she goes through during the book and in a way it made me feel heard and appreciated.

Above all the impactful stories in *Wonder*, the overarching message is one about kindness. As August's principal said, "If every person in this room made it a rule that wherever you are, whenever you can, you will try to act a little kinder than necessary-the world really would be a better place." (R.J Palacio, page 331) "Kindness is something we can take for granted and see as unnecessary, but kindness helps us all and without it, the world would be a much darker place.

The main thing that I took away from *Wonder*, is that "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind." (R.J Palacio, page 52) I loved reading about August and seeing the transformations some of the characters go through. I think the weather you're a fifth grader like August or someone in their 60's, we should all read *Wonder* at some point in our lives. It has fun stories for kids that introduce them to new kinds of people, as well as impactful messages that we could all use.

Conclusion: