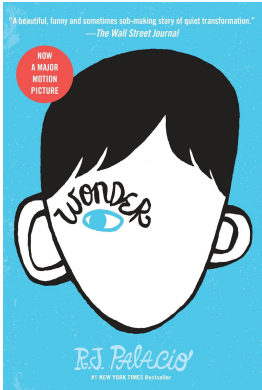


Summer Reading 2019
Penn Alexander School
(Incoming Fourth & Fifth Graders)

Incoming Fourth & Fifth Grade Families-

This summer Penn Alexander students entering Fourth and Fifth grades will be given **Wonder** by R.J. Palacio. Below you will find a summary of the story and questions you can discuss with your child. We encourage you to spend time reading the book with your child this summer, and discussing its many beautiful themes. In addition to the selected text, we highly encourage your child to read each day throughout the summer!



August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. **WONDER**, now a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Discussion Questions after reading Wonder:

AUGGIE'S APPEARANCE

Throughout *Wonder*, Auggie describes the way that many people react to seeing his face for the first time: by covertly staring, or by immediately looking away. Have you ever been in a situation where you have responded like this to seeing someone who looks different? Having read *Wonder*, how do you feel about this now? Auggie's face is not fully described until quite far on in the story. When Auggie's appearance is described in Via's chapter "August: Through the Peephole," how did the description of Auggie compare to your own ideas of how Auggie might have looked? Did this description alter that mental picture?

AUGGIE'S PERSONALITY

How would you describe Auggie as a person in the first few chapters of the book? What about the final few chapters? Has he changed significantly? Are there any experiences or episodes during the story that you think had a particular effect on him? If so, how?

ACTIVE KINDNESS VS. FRIENDLINESS

Summer very actively behaves in ways that demonstrate the "choose kind" philosophy. Charlotte, on the other hand, is a character who is asked to befriend Auggie, and she does, but in a more passive way. If you were in a situation like this, would you be like Summer or Charlotte? In what ways?

Optional:

WONDER PRECEPTS

All year the students learn "Mr. Browne's Precepts" and then write their own over the summer. Come up with your own precept and send it to SummerReadingPAS@gmail.com. We will be creating a bulletin Board of your ideas in September.