

Ethics After Hours



Wonder Movie

Summary¹

10-year old August Pullman was born with a rare medical facial deformity. Due to the high number of surgeries he has gone through in his life, he has been home schooled. His parents decide to enrol him in fifth grade in a private school, Beecher Prep. After a short while, 'Auggie' is faced with bullying from some of the boys in his class, including by his best friend Jack, who is dragged into it by the other boys. Auggie's teacher and his parents support him as Auggie forms new friendships and eventually finds his own way to become accepted by his classmates. This movie is based on the book *Wonder* written by R.J. Palacio.

Duration 113 mins.

Released: November 14, 2017

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay, Izabela Vidovic, Mandy Patinkin, and Daveed Diggs

Available on Netflix

Questions for discussion²:

- How is Auggie's sister Via's life affected by his deformity?
- Auggie's enrolment at Beecher Prep creates challenges for students, parents, teachers and the principal. What are some of the challenges that arise and how are they dealt with?
 - What are the values reflected in the various responses to the challenges as they arise?
 - Do you feel the portrayal of Auggie's experience at Beecher Prep is realistic? Why or why not?
- How do you think Auggie's parents handle some of the challenges that Auggie and the family is faced with?
- Auggie sees himself as fairly ordinary, apart from his appearance. Do you think Auggie's friends see him as an ordinary kid?
- How do Auggie's friends' and classmates' reactions to him shift over time?
- How does Auggie's ability to be comfortable in his own skin make it easier for his friends and family to relate to him?
- What lessons are learned because of Auggie's attendance at the school?
 - Who learns these lessons? How do they learn them?

¹ This summary is adapted from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonder_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonder_(film))

² These questions are adapted from <https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/wonder/guide>