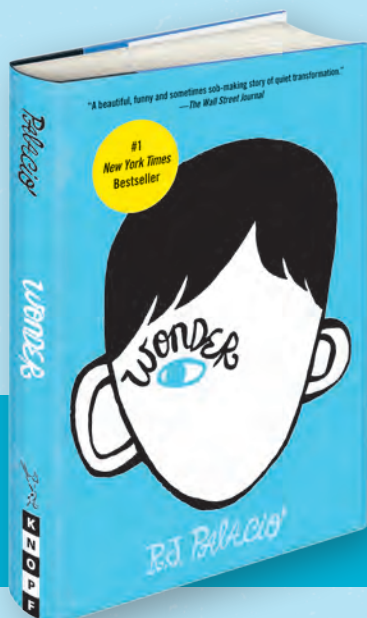


# We pledge to **choose** *Kind*

**When given  
the choice  
between  
being right  
or being  
kind,  
choose  
*Kind***



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**#thewonderofwonder  
choosekind.tumblr.com**



# WONDER

R.J. Palacio

## ABOUT THE BOOK

After being home-schooled for four years, Auggie, who suffers from a severely deformed face, enters the fifth grade at Beecher Prep School and does his best to be just an ordinary kid with an extraordinary face.

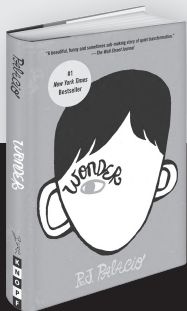
The first few days of school are more than difficult. Try as he might to ignore them, Auggie must endure the looks and whispers—even the cruel game, “The Plague,” where everyone is afraid to touch him. Julian especially causes Auggie’s days to be miserable, making references about Auggie’s face and veiled threats to harm him. The flip side is that Auggie has the steadfast support of his first friend, Summer, and his best friend, Jack, and his teachers and the principal like him. But for every positive, there is a negative: Jack betrays him, a gang of kids try to hurt him, and some particularly insensitive parents even try to have him removed from the school. Yet, Auggie shows amazing understanding and compassion. As the school year progresses, Auggie learns that, though there will always be people who want to taunt him and make his life miserable, he can have true friends despite his looks. The wonder of Auggie’s extraordinarily unique presence is that the people around him learn what it is to be kind and to be courageous.

## GRADES 3–7

HC: 978-0-375-86902-0

GLB: 978-0-375-96902-7

EL: 978-0-375-89988-1



# choose kind

Inspired by *Wonder*, this anti-bullying initiative encourages young readers to share their story and introduce the theme of Choose Kind to your classroom or reading group all year long. No matter the season, students can make the words of wisdom from Auggie, Summer, Olivia, and the whole cast of characters in *Wonder* their own. Here are some ideas to get you started:

## JANUARY

- ★ **NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!** The start of the year is always perfect for resolutions and goal settings. Share the precepts from *Wonder* and have students come up with precepts for the class, themselves, and/or the grade as a whole. Feature the final choices in a public place so you and the students can reference them throughout the rest of the school year.
- ★ Tie **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY** with the message of Choose Kind. Auggie’s story highlights the power of one—one individual, one act of kindness, and the power of paying forward. How did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspire kindness in his message of civil rights? Who else emulated these values? How will the students and the class as a whole Choose Kind this year?

## APRIL

**APRIL IS POETRY MONTH!** Encourage students to use *Wonder* as inspiration for their own poems while educating them on the various forms. Here are some suggestions:

- ★ Compose an acrostic poem using a character from *Wonder* or the title itself.
- ★ Using the precepts from *Wonder* as a guide, write your own in the form of a haiku or cinquain.
  - **Haiku** is Japanese poetry that reflects on nature and feelings. Use your observation skills to write what you learned from Auggie, Summer, and the characters in *Wonder*. There are three lines with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second, and five syllables in the third.
  - **Cinquains** have five lines
    - Line 1: Title (noun) – 1 word
    - Line 2: Description – 2 words
    - Line 3: Action – 3 words
    - Line 4: Feeling (phrase) – 4 words
    - Line 5: Title (synonym for the title) – 1 word



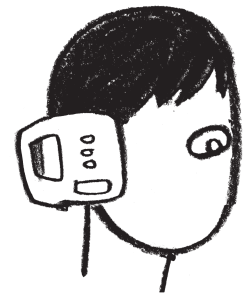
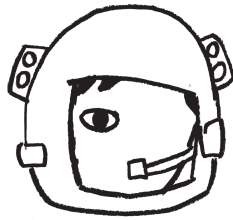
## JUNE

“Your deeds are your monuments.” —R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*

- ★ Tie the theme of Choose Kind with your year-end reflection and ask students to share deeds, moments, and acts from the year that stood out.
- ★ What was their “monument” this year?
- ★ Add *Wonder* to your school’s recommended summer reading list both for your district and at your local library.

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## SEPTEMBER

"I wish every day could be Halloween. We could all wear masks all the time. Then we could walk around and get to know each other before we got to see what we looked like under the masks." —R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*

- ★ Full of mixed impressions, changing views, and lessons on change, *Wonder* is the perfect book to share with students at the beginning of the school year to encourage respect and kindness in your classroom. Each character experiences this shift in thinking and feeling differently. Use the quote above to start conversations about first impressions, starting something new, getting to know someone, and adapting to a new school, new home, or new sibling. Pose the following questions as either class discussions, writing prompts, etc:
  - What characteristics form a first impression?
  - Has your first impression ever been wrong?
  - How did you come to realize it and did you do anything to change your view?
- ★ What masks do the various characters in *Wonder* wear? Via, Auggie's sister, feels compelled to be kind and patient at all times, but often she is quite frustrated.
  - Ask the students to draw a mask that reflects their hobbies, interests, favorite foods, music, or books. They should focus on bringing out the characteristics that define them which may not be obvious at first glance.
- ★ *Wonder* is the perfect book for a school-wide or community-wide read. Start the planning conversation with your colleagues and PTO members at the beginning of the school year to ensure that your program is as meaningful as possible for your community.

## OCTOBER

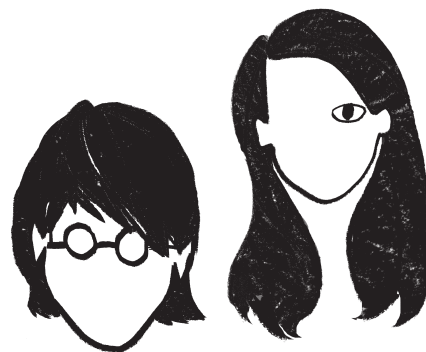
October is **NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH**. Use *Wonder* as the anchor for the bullying conversation in your classroom.

- ★ Have students take the pledge to Choose Kind at [choosekind.tumblr.com](http://choosekind.tumblr.com).
- ★ Compare and contrast incidences of bullying and incidences of kindness in *Wonder*.
- ★ Have students work together to create a public service announcement for your school.
- ★ Using available technology, make your own video book trailer to promote *Wonder*. Check out the Random House book trailer at [SchoolTube.com](http://SchoolTube.com).
- ★ Publish, film, or blog a collection of your students' precepts.

## NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

'Tis the Season to Choose Kind!

- ★ Spread cheer and celebrate the act of kindness by:
  - Hosting a food drive, bake sale, or collecting gifts for children in need
  - Volunteering as a class at a local nursing home and/or after-school programs



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[choosekind.tumblr.com](http://choosekind.tumblr.com)



# MR. BROWNE'S PRECEPTS

In *Wonder*, Auggie's teacher Mr. Browne presents a monthly precept, which is "anything that helps guide us when making decisions about really important things." Choose one of the precepts below and write an essay about what it means to you. Then write your own personal precept in the blank square below.

*When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.* —Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

*Your deeds are your monuments.*  
—inscription on an Egyptian tomb

*Have no friends not equal to yourself.*  
—Confucius

*Audentes fortuna invat. (Fortune favors the bold.)*  
—Virgil

*No man is an island, entire of itself.*  
—John Donne

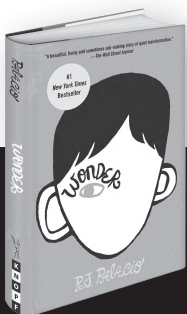
*It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers.*  
—James Thurber

*Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.*  
—Blaise Pascal

*What is beautiful is good, and who is good will soon be beautiful.*  
—Sappho

*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you ever can.*  
—John Wesley's Rule

*Just follow the day and reach for the sun!*  
—The Polyphonic Spree, "Light and Day"



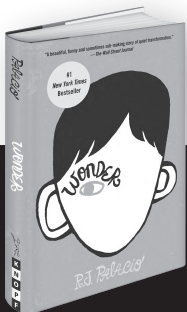
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# choose *kind* BINGO!

How many acts of kindness can you do this school year? Keep track by drawing a circle around each act you perform.

★ <b>K</b> ★	★ <b>I</b> ★	★ <b>N</b> ★	★ <b>D</b> ★
Give someone a standing ovation.	Listen without distraction to your friends and family members.	Stick up for a friend who is being mistreated.	Say hello to someone at school who isn't your friend.
Write a thank-you note to someone who has done something nice for you.	Give someone a compliment.	Hold the door for a stranger.	Call a family member who you haven't talked to in a while.
Help a friend who is having trouble with his schoolwork.	Send a card to a friend telling her why she is special to you.	Volunteer at a local organization.	Donate an item you no longer use to charity.
Share a favorite song with a friend.	Treat your teachers with respect.	Look for the best qualities in the people you know.	Read <i>Wonder</i> by R. J. Palacio and then share it with a friend.



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choosekind.tumblr.com





# choose Kind

## Certificate of Participation

Just one act of kindness can make a difference.

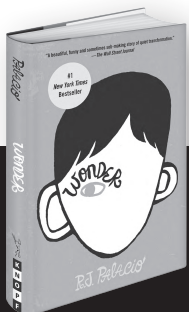
\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

pledged to choose kind in the spirit of Auggie Pullman  
and the students at Beecher Prep.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**When given the choice  
between being right or  
being kind, choose kind.**



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**Cut out the card and send it to a friend.  
Don't forget to write a special note!**

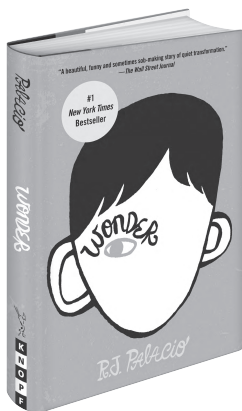


FOLD

Thanks for being mine.  
Happy Friendship Day!

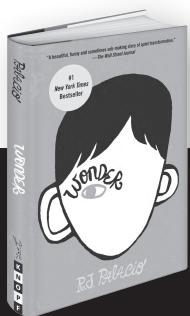
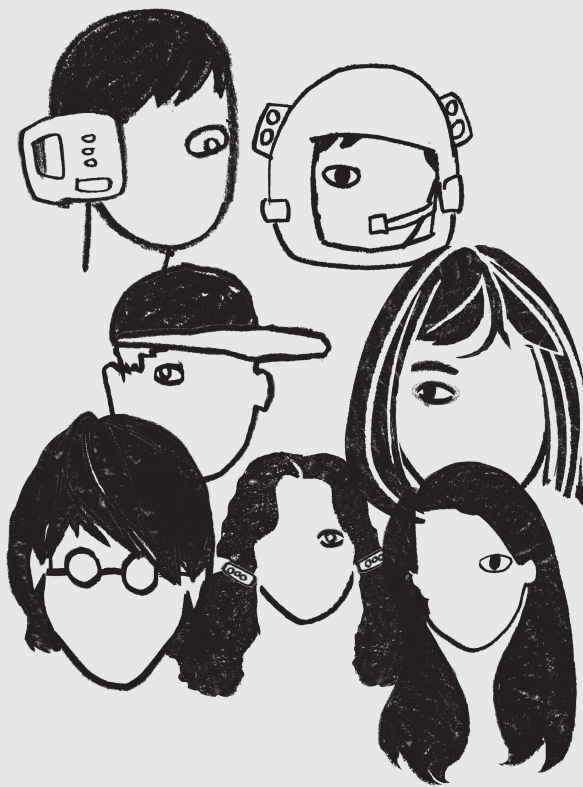


“It's not enough to  
be friendly. You have  
to be a friend.”  
— R.J. Palacio, *Wonder*



The #1 *New York Times* Bestseller  
by R. J. Palacio

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