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AT THE CENTER

educating through the performing arts

PRESENTING

The 2025 Human[kind] Cinema
Series film:

Wonder

This film is based on the book by the same name,
written by R.J. Palacio (2012).

The following educational resource is a movie-
based study guide with school activity ideas and
discussion questions.

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MOVIE DISCUSSION GUIDE



Wonder

“Wonder” is the touching story of Auggie Pullman – a 10-year-old boy who was born with distorted facial features – a “craniofacial difference” caused by an anomaly in his DNA. As he transitions from home school to public school for the first time. The film tackles difficult subjects, but ultimately shares a heartwarming message of overcoming challenges, embracing one’s uniqueness and spreading kindness whenever possible.

Use this guide to spark a discussion. You can also print out some copies to share with parents, so they can continue the conversation at home.

Programming Suggestions

This powerful, family-friendly film creates a great opportunity to engage your community in valuable learning opportunities and kindness initiatives. Utilize one, or more, of these ideas to help #choosekind at your school:

- Precepts play a large role in both the book and movie adaption of this story. Following a screening of the film, dive deeper into what a precept is and then have attendees write their very own by reflecting on their life experiences and what they believe is an important rule to live by. Invite a couple people – both students and parents – to share theirs with the entire audience.
- At graduation, Auggie is awarded a special honor to represent his growth and “inherent decency.” Honor students in your school who spread kindness by holding nominee submissions and voting in the weeks leading up to the screening. Then, announce the winners of this special honor before the film.
- Invite families to take part in a Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) challenge on the day of the screening. All you need to do is create a hashtag for teams to use as they post their completed RAK to social. That way you can easily keep track of which team performs the most acts, and you can also create a slideshow featuring all the tagged photos and posts to play before the movie screening.
- Use a screening of this film as an opportunity to share information about craniofacial differences with your school community. They’ll better understand what Auggie and his family are going through, and it will promote acceptance for all people no matter their appearance.

Discussion Questions

1. Auggie says people often react to his appearance by looking away. How does he wish people reacted? Have you ever met or saw someone whose appearance surprised you? How did you react? Will you respond differently after seeing this film?
2. The movie uses a lot of space metaphors throughout. Do you think they make sense for this storyline? How?
3. Auggie is obsessed with "Star Wars." How do you think he identifies with the story and characters?
4. Although this movie tackles difficult subjects, it's also full of humor. Why do you think humor was so important to this story? Do you think this is why Auggie call his birth a joke with a great punchline?
5. Why do you think the film includes multiple points of view? Do you think this method of storytelling was beneficial?
6. Which point of view did you like the most? Which character did you relate to the most?
7. Although different perspectives are shown, none of them are from an adult or parent's point of view. Why do you think that is?
8. Auggie takes his mom's advice that "If you don't like where you are, picture where you want to be." Can you imagine a scenario in your life where this would be helpful? Do you have a similar method for dealing with tough situations?
9. Auggie thanks his mom at the end of the movie for making him go to school, admitting that he hated her at times for it. Why do you think he feels differently about it now? Discuss how hard it must have been for Auggie's mom to be the "bad guy" and make him go?
10. Mr. Brown's precepts are a big part of this film. Which one was your favorite? If you were to write a precept, what would it be?
11. One of Auggie's teachers challenges the kids: "When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." What does this mean to you?
12. After Auggie's first day of school he asks his mom if his physical appearance is "always gonna matter?" in which she replies, "I don't know." Why do you think she gave this response? Do you think she should have said "no" even if she didn't believe that?
13. Why do you think Auggie lets Jack cheat off him? Did you think it was okay that he did that?
14. Via says, "I'm always going to be the sister of a kid with a birth defect; that's not the issue. I just don't always want to be defined that way." What does she mean by this statement? Did you empathize with her character?
15. When Daisy passes, Auggie says she was a real friend. What qualities do you think a good friend possesses? Which of the film's characters do you think best exemplified these qualities?
16. What do you think Daisy's passing taught Auggie about his friendship with Jack?
17. Toward the beginning Auggie's mom says people like Julien act like that because they want attention. After being introduced to his parents, do you believe that was the case? How can we show kindness to people dealing with insecurities?
18. Why do you think Auggie cried after the fight in the woods at the nature reserve?
19. Julien's parents said Auggie's presence at the school wasn't fair to the other kids. What lessons were learned as a result of his attendance at school?
20. Auggie has to deal with bullying from Julien and his friends throughout the film. How does he handle these attacks? How do the adults around him handle them? What do you wish you could say to these bullies?
21. Both Auggie and Via have to deal with betrayal from close friends. How do they resolve these conflicts? How did they cope? Have you ever had to deal with betrayal from a close friend? How did you handle it?
22. 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?
23. How does Auggie change throughout the course of the movie? Does anyone else change? If so, how?

NOTE: Some content borrowed from C.S. Mott Children's Hospital's "Wonder" Initiative: www.mottchildren.org