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Text Review: Adolescent Literature

Deborah W. Addison

Schreiner University, Kerrville, TX, daddison@schreiner.edu

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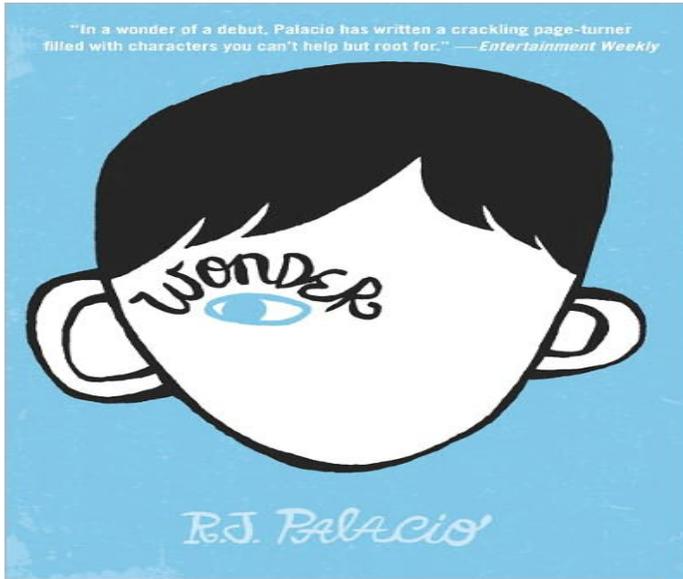
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Text Review

Adolescent Literature

WONDER



R.J. PALACIO, 2012, NEW YORK, NY: KNOPF BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Reviewed by Deborah Wachtel Addison, Ph.D.

August (Auggie) Pullman is a ten-year-old boy wanting to fit in with other ten-year-olds, yet he is not an ordinary boy. Auggie has a facial deformity that causes many people, young and old alike, to react noticeably disturbed by his appearance. For the first four years of his school life, he was homeschooled. Then at his fifth grade year, his parents felt there was a need for Auggie to begin schooling outside his home so he could meet new friends and adjust to his surroundings more readily. *Wonder* is a story of a young boy adjusting to school life with a deformity he wishes he never had so he could fit in unnoticed with the world. This book captures in detail the first year Auggie spends at Beecher.

Preparatory School, a private school near his home. Before the school year begins, his new principal introduces him to students

Deborah Wachtel Addison is an assistant professor at Schreiner University, Kerrville, TX. daddison@schreiner.edu

who also go to the school and they give him a tour of the facilities. Victories and setbacks plague this young, brave boy who wants nothing more than to fit in and have friends that won't run in fear of his looks.

Auggie is not the only one who has a life altering experience. Sister Via, new acquaintances Jack, Summer, and Justin, and his sister's former friend Miranda share their views of the experiences with Auggie going into a public domain. The results of this one year are amazing for all characters, building confidence, respect, and excitement in ways no one ever imagined. This is a great read for students and adults alike.

RJ Palacio masterfully writes this touching and impactful story not only through the eyes of the main character, but also through all of the characters, one section at a time. Anyone reading this will be able to see effectively the point of view and different ideas each character experiences in the same context of an event. On her website, [Palacio](http://www.rjpalacio.com) includes faqs, annotations, facts about herself as well as teacher discussion questions to use in the classroom or book talks.

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