

Shared reading Monday 22nd February 2021 RJ Palacio author and illustrator

American author R.J. Palacio is perhaps best-known for writing the book Wonder (2012), which was turned into a major motion picture in 2017.



Raquel Jaramillo Palacio was born on July 13, 1963, in New York. Her parents were from Colombia. Palacio went to school in Manhattan, New York, first at the High School of Art and Design and then at Parsons School of Design.

In 2012 Palacio published *Wonder*, a novel for young people. *Wonder* tells the story of a boy, Auggie, who has a severe facial deformity.

Although he had been home schooled, he begins fifth grade in a regular school. There he has to adjust to the reactions of the other students and of the community to his physical differences.

R. J. Palacio wrote *Wonder* after her son noticed a girl with a facial deformity and he started to cry. Fearing he would cry harder and make a scene, Palacio tried to remove her son from the situation so as not to upset the girl and her family but ended up making the situation worse.

The book teaches acceptance, **empathy**, and **compassion**. The movie *Wonder* was released in 2017.

We're All Wonders (2017) is a picture book that tells Auggie's story for younger children.

Retrieval.

- When and where was RJ Palacio born?
- RJ Palacio released a movie called *Wonder* in 2012. True or false? Explain.

Vocabulary:

- The book *wonder* teaches 'acceptance, empathy and compassion'. Define **empathy**.
- Compassion means we care about others, treat them with kindness, and help them. Describe a way you could show **compassion** to another person.

Inference:

- Instead of removing her son from the situation where he saw a girl with a facial deformity, what could Palacio have done differently?
- How do you think you would you react if you met Auggie?

Empathy



Understanding and sharing the feelings of another.

Imagining yourself in their place.

