

Book Promotion – **Wonder** by **R.J. Palacio**

This book has become world-wide best-seller since it was first published.

The background: R. J. Palacio wrote *Wonder* after an incident where her son noticed a girl with a severe facial deformity and started to cry. Fearing he would react badly, Palacio had attempted to remove her son from the situation so as not to upset the girl and her family but ended up worsening the situation.

Natalie Merchant's song "Wonder" made her realize that the incident could illustrate a valuable lesson.

Palacio was inspired by Merchant's lyrics and she began writing. She named the book directly after the song, and used the song's chorus as the prologue of the first chapter.

https://www.teachingbooks.net/book_reading.cgi?id=7465&a=1

In this recording, RJ Palacio talks about **how she came to write Wonder**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm0Y-8tDjw0&feature=share>

Listen to **"Wonder"** – the song by **Natalie Merchant** which gave the book its title.

The main character of the story is a boy named August Pullman, Auggie, who has been home-schooled until 5th grade in the US (Grade 5 in South Africa) due to severe facial deformity/abnormality. So when he goes to school, there is much that he and his class have to learn about having someone "different" like him in their class.

Their teacher, Mr Browne, gives the class a precept every month. A precept is an inspiring quote / saying and this is the first one in the book:

Mr. Browne's Precept for the month of September is: "If you have the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind." It's a quote by Dr. Wayne Dyer.

<https://wonderthebook.com/> Here is the **official website** which you can explore to find out more about the books, the movie, the author etc.

I did find a copy of *Wonder* in the NMB e-library, though it is obviously popular as is on the "Wait List". If you have a library card you can download the app called **Libby** to your phone or device, find our **Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality** – and then log in using your library card number.

Maybe the challenge for the week can be to get a **blank piece of paper** and write and decorate the letters of a **precept/quote/saying that inspires you**, to go on your wall beside your desk during lockdown. And there are four copies of *Wonder* in the library, so be sure to grab one when school reopens.

Best wishes for the week of reading, Grade 5s

Mrs Bentley