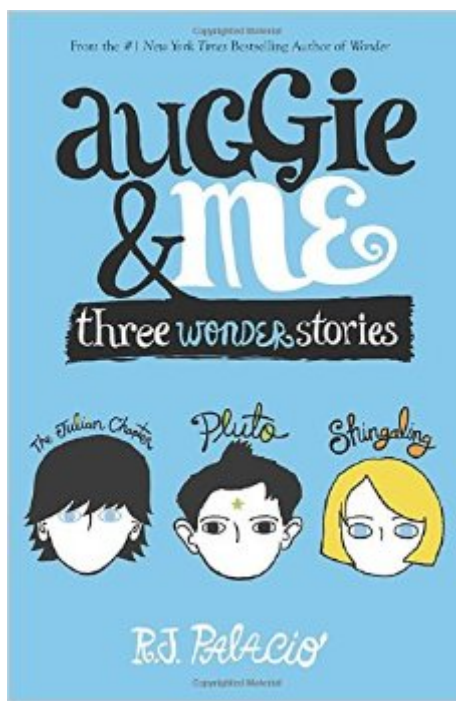


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Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories



Synopsis

WONDER[®] IS SOON TO BE A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING JULIA ROBERTS AND JACOB TREMBLAY! Over 5 million people have read the #1[®] New York Times[®] bestseller[®] Wonder[®] "the book that inspired the Choose Kind movement[®]" and have fallen in love with Auggie Pullman, an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face. Auggie & Me gives readers a special look at Auggie[™]'s world through three new points of view. Previously only available in ebook, now they[™]ll be published all together--complete with an introduction from the author on how she came to write them--in a gorgeous hardcover package![®] [®] These stories are an extra peek at Auggie before he started at Beecher Prep and during his first year there. Readers get to see him through the eyes of Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie[™]'s oldest friend; and Charlotte, Auggie[™]'s new friend at school. Together, these three stories are a treasure for readers who don[™]t want to leave Auggie behind when they finish Wonder.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0680 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (August 18, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1101934859

ISBN-13: 978-1101934852

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1.1 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars[®] [®] See all reviews[®] (157 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,533 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in[®] Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #6 in[®] Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #31 in[®] Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In Auggie & Me, Palacio delves into three secondary characters from Wonder: Julian, Christopher and Charlotte. This is definitely NOT a sequel--the action takes place before and during the same

time as *Wonder*. It does not tell the story of what happens to Auggie after *Wonder* finishes. But it is a companion novel (or rather three short books) best read after *Wonder*, "an expansion of Auggie's world," as Palacio writes in her introduction. The three characters at the center of these short books were all impacted by Auggie, but these are their stories. We get to understand Julian, how his nightmares affected the way he reacted to Auggie, how his mother kept making excuses for him as opposed to helping him take responsibility for his actions. Palacio doesn't justify or defend Julian's actions, but she helps readers see inside him. And she lets Julian, who was so awful to Auggie in *Wonder*, go through his own transformation. Charlotte's story, in *Shingaling*, shone the most brightly for me, perhaps because her insecurities resonated with me, or perhaps because her friendship struggles were separate from Auggie's and so more fully developed as a standalone story. But most likely, it's because of the way that Charlotte learns to overcome her worries, her social anxieties and her own inner-judgments to become friends with two girls she didn't know at all before 5th grade started. Families and teachers will enjoy reading *Auggie and Me* aloud precisely for the way it leads to conversations, just like *Wonder* did. There are times that reading Julian's voice may be difficult, with his casual cruelty and naive declaration that he didn't mean to hurt anyone. And Charlotte sounds a lot like an insecure kid at times.

Like millions of people worldwide, I fell in love with *Wonder*. I was so excited to read more from R.J. Palacio when I got the offer to read *Auggie & Me*. I am not usually a huge fan of short stories, but the three stories in *Auggie & Me* are short stories done right. The first story is *The Julian Chapter*, which I admit, I was looking forward to the least. I mean, who doesn't love to hate Julian?! But, I was so surprised at the way my view of Julian changed after reading his story. I enjoyed hearing Julian's own narrative voice and found myself completely understanding where his anger and hate towards Auggie came from. Julian's history doesn't excuse his actions, and Palacio does not try to create false sympathy for Julian. She simply delves into his character and own family life, and through that narrative, the reader comes to see that Julian's behavior towards Auggie and Jack was only natural for him: he is the product of his upbringing. However, all is not lost, as Julian undergoes quite a bit of character growth in this story. His visit with his grandmere in Paris was life-changing for him, and reading her story was the most touching part of *The Julian Chapter*. I started this short story thinking, "I'll just get through this one quickly because I really want to read the other two," and ended it with tears of compassion for Julian and his family. Bravo, Palacio! Next comes *Pluto*, Auggie's friend Christopher's story. Auggie and Chris have been friends since birth, but Chris moves away before Auggie starts at Beecher Prep, so he's not there to shelter Auggie at his new school.

Chris's story was just as touching as I expected it to be, and I was once again moved to tears by the end of it.

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