

# READER'S THEATER BASED ON *Wonder*

Written by R.J. Palacio

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Arranged by CYRM Committee members for classroom use only.

## Characters:

Narrator 1  
Narrator 2  
Narrator 3  
Narrator 4

Narrator 5  
Narrator 6  
Narrator 7  
Narrator 8

### From Beecher Prep:

Auggie  
Jack  
Amos  
Miles  
Henry

### From Another School:

Eddie (Boy 1)  
Boy 2  
Boy 3  
Boy 4  
Girl 1  
Girl 2

Narrator 1: Ten-year old Auggie Pullman was born with a facial deformity, and even after 27 facial surgeries, when others see his face for the first time they do “that look-away thing.”

Narrator 2: Even so, Auggie feels ordinary inside. Like other kids, he loves playing with his Xbox, eating ice cream, and attending birthday parties. He's funny, kind, and smart.

Narrator 3: But he has one extraordinary face.

Narrator 4: For his entire life, Auggie has been homeschooled by his mom; however, at the start of fifth grade, his parents convince Auggie that he is ready to attend school and that they have selected Beecher Prep as his middle school.

Narrator 1: Auggie's first year of school is eventful, complete with scornful bullies, surprising Halloween costumes, competitive friendship wars, and some wonderful new friends.

Narrator 2: It's spring now, and the entire fifth grade has taken a four-hour bus ride to Broarwood Nature Preserve for a three-day, two-night overnight trip.

Narrator 3: Auggie approached the overnight trip with a mixture of dread and excitement—he'd never slept anywhere other than his home or a hospital.

Narrator 4: However, the trip begins better than Auggie could have imagined. On the bus ride there, he realizes that his arch-enemy Julian has elected not to make the trip because he thought the whole nature-retreat thing was "dorky."

Narrator 1: Auggie is totally pumped that he will not have to deal with Julian for three days in a row.

Narrator 2: Auggie soon realizes that unlike Julian, he finds nature "so cool." He thoroughly enjoys the first day's nature hike through giant trees, complete with a slight fog and the sounds of loud bird chirps and calls.

Narrator 3: On that very first hike, Auggie realizes that his hearing aids—the hearing aids that he fought his parents not to get—actually allow him to hear better than most people. Auggie is completely in tune with the sounds of the forest, often being the first person to hear a new bird call.

Narrator 4: Later, Auggie hangs out by the campfire, loving the sounds of the fire and how the fire lights up people's faces. He is amazed by the difference in the night sky—as he looks up, he feels like he is seeing a billion stars.

Narrator 1: The sky looks like someone has sprinkled salt on a shiny black table.

Narrator 2: After the campfire, Auggie falls into bed and sleeps soundly.

Narrator 3: On the second day, Auggie enjoys horseback riding and then rappelling up some ginormous trees.

Narrator 4: After dinner, all the fifth graders are loaded onto buses for a short trip to a nearby fairground for an outdoor movie night. The movie screen is in the middle of a huge open cornfield, surrounded by woods.

Narrator 1: The students of Beecher Prep arrive just a bit earlier than the other students, allowing Auggie and his friends Jack, Summer, Reid, and

Maya to place their sleeping bags right smack in front of the screen—the best seats in the whole field.

Narrator 2: After the sun slowly slips behind the horizon, the students are left in the deepening twilight. Suddenly the lights at the ends of the field turn on.

Narrator 3: It is as if something great has just happened.

All characters: (cheering and clapping loudly)

Narrator 4: Welcome everyone. Welcome to the twenty-third annual Big Movie Night at Broarwood Nature Reserve. Welcome to teachers and students from William Heath School . . .

Narrators 1, 2, and 3: (cheering and whistling)

Narrator 1: Welcome to teachers and students from Glover Academy . . .

Boys 1, 2, 3, and 4: (cheering and whistling)

Narrator 2: And welcome teachers and students from Beecher Prep School!

Auggie, Amos, Henry, and Miles: (cheering and whistling)

Narrator 3: We're thrilled to have you as our guests here tonight and thrilled that the weather is cooperating. Can you believe what a beautiful night this is?

All: (cheering and whistling)

Narrator 4: As you know, the Broarwood Nature Reserve is dedicated to protecting our environment. We ask that you leave no litter behind. We ask you to be kind to nature and it will be kind to you.

Narrator 1: Keep your free roaming to a minimum, and do not venture beyond the orange cones at the edges of the fairground. Do not go into the cornfields or the woods.

Narrator 2: In addition, if you don't feel like watching the movie, please be courteous to your fellow students who may feel otherwise; don't talk, play music, or run around.

Narrator 3: The restrooms are on the other side of the concession stands.

Narrator 4: When the movie is over, it will be quite dark, so we ask that all of you stay with your schools as you make your way back to the buses.

Narrator 1: Teachers, there's usually at least one lost party on Big Movie Nights at Broarwood: don't let it happen to you!

Narrator 2: Tonight's movie presentation will be . . . *The Sound of Music!*

Auggie: (clapping) Via's favorite movie of all time!

Boys 1, 2, 3, and 4: (booing and hissing and laughing)

Auggie: (quietly) I guess not everyone likes *The Sound of Music*.

Narrator 3: The movie begins. (singing) *The hills are alive with the sound of music . . .*

Narrator 4: Later, during the boring part of the movie where Rolf and the oldest daughter are singing,

Narrator 1: *You are sixteen, going on seventeen . . .*

Jack: "Dude, Auggie, I've got to pee."

Narrator 2: Auggie and Jack hopscotch over the kids sitting or lying down in sleeping bags and eventually find the toilets—and the huge line waiting for the toilets.

Jack: "Forget this, I'll just find a tree."

Auggie: "That's gross, Jack. Let's just wait."

Narrator 3: But Jack won't be deterred. Auggie and Jack head off to the row of trees beyond the orange cones.

Narrator 4: And of course, they forget to bring flashlights.

Narrator 1: Soon, they see flashlights coming out of the woods, and they know immediately that it is Henry, Miles, and Amos.

Narrator 2: Amos nods hello, but Miles and Henry are not friendly. They are still at war with Jack and Auggie and aren't even talking to Jack back at school.

Henry: (laughing and talking in a sarcastic voice) "Be careful of the bears!"

Narrator 3: In the pitch black, Jack hunts around for the perfect tree.

Jack: "Ah, that's much better." (sound of a zipper)

Auggie: "Now I have to pee."

Narrator 4: Auggie finds a nearby tree, not going as deeply into the woods as Jack.

Jack: "Do you smell that? Like firecrackers."

Auggie: "Oh yeah, that's what it is." (sound of a zipper) "Weird."

Jack: "Let's go."

Narrator 1: On the way back to the giant screen, Auggie and Jack walk straight into a group of kids, four boys and two girls.

Narrator 2: The six kids are coming out of the woods. Auggie is confident they were doing stuff they didn't want their teachers to know about.

Narrator 3: Auggie can smell the smoke again; it's a mixture of both firecrackers and cigarettes.

Boy 1: "What school are you from?"

Jack: "Beecher Pre . . ."

Girls 1 and 2: (screaming) "Oh my God!"

Narrator 4: There is a look of total horror on the face of the girl as she gazes for the first time upon Auggie's face.

Boy 2: "No way!"

Boys 3 and 4: (laughing) "No freakin' way man! No freakin' way!"

Boy 1: (sneering) "What is that?"

Narrator 1: The flashlight beam from the students is pointed right at Auggie's face.

Auggie: (in horror and very quietly) They're talking about me.

Jack: "Let's get out of here."

Narrator 2: Jack pulls Auggie by his sweatshirt sleeve and starts to walk away from the kids.

Boy 1: "Wait wait wait! Oh man! What happened to your face?"

Girl 1: "Stop it, Eddie."

Eddie (Boy 1): "I didn't know we were watching *Lord of the Rings* tonight! Look, guys, it's Gollum!"

Boys 2, 3, and 4: (laughing)

Narrator 3: Jack and Auggie try to walk away, but Eddie cuts them off. He is a head taller than Jack and much taller than Auggie.

Boy 2: "No man, it's *Alien*!"

Eddie: "No, no, no man. It's an orc!" (laughing)

Narrator 4: Eddie points the flashlight right into Auggie's face again.

Jack: "Leave him alone, okay!"

Narrator 5: Eddie now points the flashlight right into Jack's face.

Eddie: "Make me."

Jack: "What's your problem, dude?"

Eddie: "Your boyfriend's my problem!"

Auggie: "Jack, let's just go."

Eddie: (loudly and with sarcasm) "Oh man, it talks!"

Narrator 6: Eddie shines the flashlight back into Auggie's face and another boy throws a firecracker at Jack and Auggie's feet.

Narrator 7: Jack tries to push past Eddie, but Eddie shoves Jack hard, making Jack fall backward.

Girl 1: (screaming) "Eddie!"

Narrator 8: Auggie steps in front of Jack and holds his hands in the air like a cop.

Auggie: "Look. We're a lot smaller than you guys . . . "

Eddie: (sneering and almost snarling) "Are you talking to me, Freddie Krueger? I don't think you want to mess with me, you ugly freak."

Narrator 5: Auggie knows he should run away as fast as he can, but he will not leave Jack. Suddenly there's another voice.

Amos: "Yo, dude. What's up man?"

Narrator 6: Eddie spins around and points the flashlight toward the voice. Auggie can't believe that it's Amos, along with Miles and Henry.

Amos: "Leave them alone, dude."

Boy 2: "Says who?"

Amos: (calmly) "Just leave them alone dude."

Eddie: "Are you a freak, too?"

Boys 3 and 4: "They're all a bunch of freaks!"

Narrator 7: Amos doesn't respond to the boys but looks right at Auggie and Jack.

Amos: (calmly) "Come on, boys, let's go. Mr. Tushman is waiting for us."

Narrator 8: Auggie knows that Amos is lying, but he helps Jack get up, and Jack and Auggie start walking over to Amos.

Narrator 5: Out of the blue, Eddie yanks Auggie's hood, causing Auggie to fall flat on his back, hitting his elbow hard on a rock.

Narrator 6: Immediately, Amos rams into Eddie like a monster truck and they both fall to the ground next to Auggie.

Narrator 7: Everything gets crazy. One or more students are screaming. Someone pulls Auggie up. In the darkness, he can't see who it is.

Amos, Jack, Miles, and Henry: (yelling at different times) "Run!"

Eddie, Boy 2, 3 and 4: (screaming at different times) "Get 'em!"

Narrator 8: Two different students grab onto Auggie. Along with the sleeves of his sweatshirt, Auggie is simultaneously pulled in opposite directions--hard. Auggie hears loud cursing.

Narrator 5: Auggie's sweatshirts rips and Auggie is suddenly yanked by one arm. Soon he is running as fast as he can behind someone.

Narrator 6: Footsteps pound behind Auggie and the student he is fleeing with.

Narrator 7: Voices are shouting,

Narrator 8: The girls are screaming.

Narrator 5: It's so dark, Auggie can't tell who is screaming or talking, and he feels like he is underwater.

Henry: "Don't stop."

Narrator 6: Auggie and his rescuers run on for what feels like forever.

Henry: "I think we lost them!"

Auggie: "Amos?"

Amos: (from behind) "I'm right here."

Miles: (from farther up) "We can stop!"

Auggie: (yelling) "Jack!"

Jack: "Whod! I'm here."

Auggie: "I can't see a thing!"



Henry: "Are you sure we lost them?"

Jack: "Yeah."

Amos: "Let's listen."

Narrator 7: All the boys get super quiet, listening for footsteps in the dark. They can only hear the crickets and the frogs and their own crazy panting.

Henry: "We lost them."

Amos: "Whoa! That was intense!"

Miles: "What happened to the flashlight?"

Amos: "I dropped it!"

Jack: "How did you guys know we needed help?"

Amos: "We saw them before."

Henry: "They looked like jerks."

Auggie: "You just rammed into him, Amos!"

Amos: (laughing) "I know, right?"

Miles: "He didn't even see it coming!"

Jack: "He was like, 'Are you a freak, too? and you were like, *bam!*'"

Amos: (throwing a fake punch in the air) "Bam! But after I tackled him, I was like, run, Amos, you schmuck, he's ten times bigger than you! And I got up and started running as fast as I could!"

Amos, Miles, Jack, Auggie, and Henry: (laughing)

Henry: "I grabbed Auggie and I was like, 'Run!'"

Auggie: "I didn't even know it was you pulling me!"

Amos: (shaking his head in disbelief) "That was wild."

Henry: "Totally wild."

Miles: "Your lip is bleeding, dude."

Amos: "I got in a couple of good punches."

Jack: "I think they were seventh graders."

Miles: "They were huge."

Henry: (loudly) "Losers!"

Auggie, Jack, Miles, and Amos: (almost as loud) "Shush!"

Narrator 8: All the boys listen for a second to make sure no one has heard them.

Amos: "Where the heck are we? I can't even see the screen."

Henry: "I think we're in the cornfields."

Narrator 5: Jokingly, Miles pushes a cornstalk right at Henry.

Miles: "Duh, we're in the cornfields."

Amos: "Okay, I know exactly where we are. We have to go back in this direction. That'll take us to the other side of the field."

Jack: "Yo, dudes. That was really cool of you guys to come back for us. Really cool. Thanks."

Amos: "No problem."

Narrator 6: Jack and Amos high-five each other. (sound of slapping) Then Miles turns to Jack and give him a high-five. (sound of slapping) Then Henry and Jack high-five each other (sound of slapping).

Auggie: "Yeah, dudes, thanks."

Narrator 7: Auggie holds his palm up, wondering if the boys will high-five him too.

Amos: "It was cool how you stood your ground, little dude."

Amos, Auggie, and Miles: (sound of slapping: Auggie and Amos high-five. Then Miles and Auggie high-five).

Narrator 8: Auggie almost can't believe it; he has been high-fived by Amos and Miles, just like Jack. Just like they are friends.

Miles: "Yeah, Auggie. You were like 'We're littler than you guys' . . .

Auggie: (laughing) "I didn't know what else to say!"

Narrator 5: Now Henry gives Auggie a high-five. (sound of slapping as Henry and Auggie slap hands)

Henry: "Very cool. Sorry I ripped your sweatshirt."

Narrator 6: Auggie looks down at his sweatshirt and sees that it is completely torn down the middle. One sleeve is ripped off and the other is so stretched out that it hangs to his knees.

Jack: "Hey, your elbow's bleeding."

Auggie: (shrugging) "Yeah."

Narrator 7: Jack peers into Auggie's face and notices that he looks like he might be in pain and close to crying.

Jack: "You okay? (pause, then shouts) Wait, your hearing aids are gone!"

Auggie: "What! (pause) Oh no!" (sound of deep breaths and a few choked sobs/gulps of air).

Narrator 8: Everything that has happened suddenly hits Auggie, and the tears stream down his face—the type of crying his Mom would call "the waterworks."

Narrator 5: Auggie is so embarrassed that he hides his face in his arm.

Narrator 6: But the boys are really nice to Auggie. No one makes fun of his crying. Instead, they pat him on the back.

Jack, Amos, Henry, and Miles: (sequentially, each boy saying one line; so the same line is said twice) "You're okay, dude. It's okay."

Amos: "You're one brave little dude, you know that?"

Narrator 7: Amos puts an arm around Auggie's shoulders. Auggie just keeps crying, so Amos puts both his arms around Auggie, just like Auggie's dad would have done, and he lets Auggie cry.

Narrator 8: Later, the boys spend some time unsuccessfully hunting for Auggie's hearing aids in the dark. They decide to give up the search because they can't see a thing.

Narrator 5: As they cut through the cornfield, they eventually see the screen and hear the movie.

Narrator 6: "*High on a hill was a lonely goatherd . . .*"

Narrator 7: The boys counsel Auggie not to walk around alone for the remainder of the movie. Auggie pulls what is left of his hoodie over his head and keeps his face down.

Narrator 8: When he eventually looks up, he notices that Jack and Amos are on either side of him. Miles is in front and Henry is behind.

Narrator 5: As Auggie walks through the crowd of kids back to his sleeping bag, he realizes that everyone else has had an ordinary night. It's weird, but no one else has a clue about what nearly happened in the trees.

Narrator 6: In spite of having one of the most horrific nights of his life, as Auggie looks at his boys surrounding him, Jack who defended him and Amos, Miles, Henry who protected him, Auggie feels like he has his own emperor's guard.

Narrator 7: Even though Auggie didn't plan to tell the teachers what happened in the woods, soon the news has been whispered and shared by all.

Narrator 8: Something big has changed.

Narrator 5: Back at Beecher Prep, the story gets re-told over and over. The details of the fight in the woods and the flight through the cornfield get more and more exciting and dangerous.

Narrator 6: The overnight trip caused a seismic shift in the friendships at Beecher Prep.

Narrator 7: Amos, Miles, and Henry, along with all the jocks, became Auggie's friends as well as protectors.

Narrator 8: Amos became super popular and close friends with Miles and Henry.

Narrator 5: Julian was completely out of the loop since he missed the whole trip.

Narrator 6: Even though Julian still gave Auggie dirty looks, Auggie and Jack couldn't care less.

Narrator 7: The friendship wars were finally over, and Auggie was accepted as just another kid at Beecher Prep.

Narrator 8: Almost like he was an ordinary kid--with one extraordinary face.