

**CYRM RESOURCE GUIDE
INTERMEDIATE
(GRADES 3-6) 2014-2015**

Tuesdays at the Castle

By Jessica Day George

Bloomsbury USA, 2011

Wild Wings

By Gill Lewis

Illustrated by Yuta Onada

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2011

Wonder

by R.J. Palacio

Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2012

TUESDAYS AT THE CASTLE BY JESSICA DAY GEORGE

SYNOPSIS

Castle Glower is magical. Every Tuesday it creates new passages or rooms or even a new wing. No one can predict what will be added next but the castle seems to give the royal family whatever it needs. Celie, the youngest royal child, likes to map the changes the castle makes. She loves the castle almost more than anyone in her family. She also understands that the castle functions according to certain rules, such as the throne room must always be to the East no matter where you are in the castle. Celie even seems to be able to communicate with the castle. This becomes handy when invaders attempt to take over the kingdom after the King and Queen are ambushed and declared dead. Will Celie's 14-year old brother be forced to become king? Come along with Celie and her siblings as she and Castle Glower foil a plot to destroy the royal family and usurp the throne. This is a great new series for kids looking for a something fun with a great perky protagonist.

HOOKS

- What kind of room would you want Castle Glower to create for you? Have you ever been in a castle or a house with a secret passageway? If you could have a secret passageway, where would it go?
- Have you ever believed something that everyone else thought was wrong? What did you do and were you right?
- Do you have siblings and do you get along with them? Do you have special skills that they do not have? Have you and your siblings ever worked together on a big project?
- Have your parents ever gone away on vacation? Did you have more or less freedom in their absence?
- How would you feel if your parents disappeared one day? What could you as a child do to find them?

MEET THE AUTHOR

Jessica Day George is an award-winning author. She received a BA in Humanities/Comparative Literature from Brigham Young University where she also loved taking classes on pottery making and Old Norse legends (she did not particularly enjoy her classes on biology and math!). George received the 2007 Whitney Award for Best Book by a New Author for *Dragon Slippers*. She is the author of the Princess series, the Dragon Slipper series, and the Castle Glower series. Currently she lives in Salt Lake City with her husband, young son, and Maltese named Pippin. Read more about Jessica Day George at <http://www.jessicadaygeorge.com>.

CONNECTIONS

- Alexander, Lloyd. *The Book of Three*. Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, 1990.
- Appelbaum, Susannah. *The Hollow Bettle*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2009.
- Baker, E D. *Dragon's Breath*. Bloomsbury, 2003.
- Barron, T.A. *The Lost Years of Merlin*. Philomel Books, 1996.
- Bath, K.P. *The Secret of Castle Cant*. Little, Brown and Company, 2004.
- Burt, Marissa. *Storybound*. Harper, 2012.
- Cowell, Cressida. *How to Train Your Dragon*. Little, Brown, 2010.
- DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux : Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. Candlewick Press, 2003.
- Ferris, Jean. *Twice upon a Marigold*. Harcourt, 2008.
- Funke, Cornelia C. *Igraine the Brave*. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2007.
- Glori, Debi. *Pure Dead Magic*. Dell Yearling, 2002.
- Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2005.
- Hunter, Erin. *Into the Wild*. Avon, 2004.
- Ibbotson, Eva. *The Beasts of Clawstone Castle*. Puffin Books, 2007.
- Jacques, Brian. *Redwall*. Philomel Books, 1986.
- Kay, Elizabeth, and Ted Dewan. *Back to the Divide*. Scholastic, 2004.
- Levine, Gail C. *The Two Princesses of Bamarre*. HarperCollins, 2001.
- McMullan, K.H. *Dragon Slayers' Academy*. Gosset & Dunlap, 2000.
- Nimmo, Jenny. *Midnight for Charlie Bone*. Orchard Books, 2002.
- Pierce, Tamora. *Alanna: The First Adventure*. Random House, 1987.
- Pierce, Tamora. *First Test: Protector of the Small*. Random House, 1999.
- Riley, James. *Half Upon a Time*. Aladdin, 2010.
- Sage, Angie. *Magyk*. Katherine Tegen Books, 2005.
- Stephens, John. *The Emerald Atlas*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2011.
- Turner, Megan W. *The Thief*. Greenwillow Books, 1996.
- Winthrop, Elizabeth. *The Castle in the Attic*. Holiday House, 1985.

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Wrede, Patricia C. *Dealing with Dragons*. Magic Carpet Books/Harcourt, 2002.

ACTIVITIES

Book Trailers and Bookmarks

After reading the book, have your students work alone or with a partner to create book trailers or bookmarks. See the following websites for some examples of book trailers.

<http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/Tuesdays+at+the+Castle>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhhdjrwmlEoTrailer>

When students are creating a bookmark, ask them for a drawing on the front of the bookmark. On the reverse, make sure they include the following information: title of book, author, number of pages, setting, main characters, one paragraph summary, and a favorite quote.

Castle Building

Using paper and pencil, cardboard, Legos, or whatever is available, have students work with a partner to design a castle of their own.

Make sure to check out the following lesson plan from Scholastic:

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/activity-plan-4-5-castle-construction>

Castle Research

Have your students research a specific castle from the Middle Ages. Create a classroom map of all the castles being researched. Have students create a final project of their choosing: 3-D recreation of their castle, a PowerPoint or Prezi, or a poster. Encourage kids to come in costume on the day of their presentation. After all students have presented, have a classroom discussion on the similarities and differences of the castles researched. Create a classroom chart.

Alternatively, ask students to research a specific topic related to life in a medieval castle. Following are potential topics: castle defenses, common architectural elements in castles, waste disposal and plumbing, clothing, transportation, knights, English kings and queens, and servants and serfs. Make sure students look at the following websites:

NOVA (this site also has links to other sources about castles)

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/trebuchet/>

Interactive Castle Information

<http://www.kidsonthenet.org.uk/castle/view.html>

National Geographic videos on castles

<http://natgeotv.com/uk/fortress-britain/videos/britains-castles>

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Mr. Donn on castles

<http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/castles.html>

Mapmaking

Ask students to make a map of their room, home, classroom, school, neighborhood, or city. Discuss the elements of a map (legend, scale, direction) and whether a map is easy or difficult to draw. Then ask students where they would add a secret passageway!

WILD WINGS

BY GILL LEWIS

SYNOPSIS

Life's lessons unfold across the canvass of children's lives as they navigate the storms of nature, friendship, secrets, and promises. Callum and his friends catch Iona McNair on his parent's land. Iona promises to share a secret just with Callum if he lets her return. Their friendship blooms as they protect the secret of an osprey's aerie on his farm. They work together to keep the osprey and its young safe from poachers, and they promise to help Iris (the osprey) make the migration to Africa. Then Iona falls ill and Callum needs to fulfill the promise alone. When Iris becomes lost, Callum must find a new friend, Janeba, to discover her fate. Janeba does all she can from her hospital bed and is able to enlist the help of people in her village as well as a student doctor, Mas. Together, they find Iris. After much care, Iris is healthy and able to return north. As Iris continues the return migration, there are new fears and situations to be resolved. Janeba embarks on her own journey to overcome her illness with the help of Callum's village. Iris finally returns to the aerie on the loch.

HOOKS

- Almost everyone has friends. How did you meet your friends? Have you ever made friends with someone you thought you would never like? Do you have a friend that your other friends don't accept? Does it matter to you?
- What would it be like to have a friend in another country? Have you had a pen pal? What types of things would you like to know about your pen pal and his/her family or life? What would you tell your pen pal? Would you share everything, or is there something you would not like your friend to know? Why?
- Do you like to observe animals in the wild? Which animal would you watch? Are there any animals near your school that would be interesting to watch? Where would you begin to look? Are there any animals or creatures to observe if you live in a city? What would you like to know about animal that live in the city? What might we learn about animals and ourselves as we observe them? Are animals less important than people? Are they more important than

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people? How does this affect land use? How should we balance the concerns of the natural world with those of the human world?

MEET THE AUTHOR

Combine a love of animals, a computer, and a skill to intertwine the lives of both characters and readers and you are beginning to get a glimpse of Gill Lewis. Her early dreams were of becoming an explorer or if that wasn't to be, at least a vet or a worker in a zoo. Instead, Lewis became a veterinarian. Later, while reading to her own children, she rediscovered her love of children's literature, and she was motivated to learn more about writing. She earned her masters degree in Writing for Young People from Bath Spa University where she was also awarded the most promising author prize for her course. Unlike many debut authors, her debut novel was "snapped up" almost immediately after submission to publishers. Lewis's other books, including her most recent novel *Moon Bear*, all show her love of nature and animals. Lewis resides in Somerset, United Kingdom. Visit <http://www.gilllewis.com>.

CONNECTIONS

Auch, M. J. *Wing Nut*. Square Fish, 2008.
Christopher, Lucy. *Flyaway*. Chicken House, 2013.
Dembicki, Matt. *Xoc: The Journey of a Great White*. Fulcrum Publishing, 2014.
Hoare, Ben. *DK Eyewitness Books: Endangered Animals*. DK Publishing, 2010.
Hoose, Phillip. *Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2012.
George, Jean Craighead. *Charlie's Raven*. Puffin, 2006.
Kelley, Jane. *Nature Girl*. Yearling, 2011.
Rinaldi, Ann. *An Unlikely Friendship: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckley*. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2007.
Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Sammy Keyes and the Wild Things*. Yearling, 2008.
Wilhelm, Doug. *The Revealers*. Square Fish, 2003.
Wojciechowska, Maia. *A Kingdom in a Horse*. Sky Pony Press, 2012.

ACTIVITIES

Nature Activities

Have the students create their own nature observation project and write about it in story or observational report. Gill Lewis gives suggestions

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regarding how to observe and write about wildlife or nature in her website. <http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2012/may/01/top-writing-tips-gill-lewis>. This may be turned into a class book by compiling each student's work into a single volume. The students can also include photos or art projects that enhance their work.

Research an endangered species from your local area. Create displays with short informational paragraphs highlighting important facts. Make sure to include related photos and maps.

Make a connection with a school in another country or state to work on a project, possibly the migration of a bird species in your area. Map it as they did in *Wild Wings*. If there is no information available for a migration in progress, search for the migration route and discover if there are coordinates that you can use to mark your map.

Writing Prompts

Have a class discussion on friendship. Ask how they met their close friends. Ask if anyone became friends with someone that no one else liked or who was a loner. How did they handle having a friend that no one else liked or was willing to reach out to? Have students describe in a paragraph or more how they became friends with their loner friend, or if they didn't have such an experience, with their best friend. They may go further and describe why they are friends and what make their friendship so special.

Alternatively, ask your students to think about bully behavior and friendship. Ask them if they ever picked on someone or if they had a friend who was picked on. How did they feel when observing or engaging in such behavior? What thoughts went through their mind? Did the behavior change their feelings about that person? Why or why not? How would you feel if someone thought those things about you? How would you reach out to someone who was picked upon?

OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

Dyfi Osprey Project:

<http://www.dyfiospreyproject.com>

National Wildlife Federation, blog on *Wild Wings*:

<http://blog.nwf.org/2012/01/invite-an-osprey-into-your-family>

Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center:

http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/education/kids_stuff/woth_game

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Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) (tracking studies and maps):

<http://arcinst.org/arci-tracking-studies?gclid=CNyR18D98rsCFe1xQgodRDgAgA>

Nature (The Loneliest Animals):

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/teachers-guides/the-loneliest-animals/teachers-guide/4960/>

National Geographic (People and Endangered Species Lesson Plan):

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/archive/xpeditions/lessons/08/g35/endangered.html?ar_a=1

Friendship Themes from Pro Teacher:

http://www.proteacher.org/c/476_theme_-_friendship_theme.html

WONDER

BY R.J. PALACIO

PLOT SYNOPSIS

Wonder celebrates the power of kindness and the beauty of the human spirit. Even though his face makes others do “that look-away thing,” ten-year old 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. But he has one extraordinary face. Auggie has been homeschooled by his mom because of all his facial surgeries (27 in all!); however, at the start of fifth grade, his parents convince Auggie that he is ready to begin fifth grade at Beecher Prep. *Wonder* follows Auggie through his eventful first year of middle school, complete with scornful bullies, surprising Halloween costumes, competitive friendship wars, a frightening overnight school field trip, and some strong new friendships.

Auggie’s story is told from a variety of perspectives. R.J. Palacio successfully brings us into the mind and feelings of not only Auggie, but also his protective older sister Via, his sister’s sensitive boyfriend Justin, his first friends Summer and Jack, and Via’s childhood friend Miranda. With each shifting narrator, the reader gains a deeper understanding of Auggie and his family and friends. It is a remarkable, but still believable, group of people that surrounds Auggie. From his supportive parents, who still possess humor and perspective, to his inspiring English teacher, R.J. Palacio shows how each of us—through a smile or another simple act of encouragement--can make the life of someone else so much better.

HOOKS

- Have you ever met someone with a deformity? How did you respond? Do you think your response made the other person comfortable? Were you comfortable with your response?
- Have you ever been bullied because of your appearance? Did you seek help? From whom? Have you ever stopped someone from being bullied? What did you do? What could you have done differently?
- What does it mean to be a kind person? Are you kind? Is kindness valued in your family, at your school, and by your friends? How

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could you be more kind? How could you encourage a culture of kindness in your class or your school?

MEET THE AUTHOR

Raquel Jaramillo, aka R.J. Palacio, has spent over 20 years in book publishing, as an art director, director of children's books, and editor, designing book jackets for hundreds of authors (including Louise Ehrdrich, Colum McCann, and Salman Rushdie to name a few) as well as working side by side with editors, marketing executives, publicists, proofreaders, agents, and production managers. Today, in addition to being an author, she is an editor-at-large for Workman Publishing Company. Her son's tears and her hurried departure following a chance encounter with an extraordinary child with facial deformities in front of an ice cream store (combined with listening to Natalie Merchant's song "Wonder" on the radio that day) prompted her to begin writing *Wonder*. She strongly believed that she should have handled the chance encounter differently, and Auggie's story is the result of her internal re-evaluation of her behavior. She wrote *Wonder* under the pseudonym R.J. Palacio because she did not want to use any of her publishing connections to get her first novel published. Jaramillo loves going to movies, playing the guitar, and hanging out with her family watching *Modern Family*. She currently lives in New York City with her husband, two sons, and two dogs.

CONNECTIONS

Chapter Books Dealing with Bullying:

Amato, Mary. *Invisible Lines*. Egmont USA, 2009.

Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt*. Yearling, 2010.

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Bully Buster*. Thorndike Press, 2002.

Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010.

Key, Watt. *Alabama Moon*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2006.

La Fleur, Suzanne. *Eight Keys*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2011.

Lee, Jenny. *Elvis and the Underdogs*. Balzer + Bray, 2013.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Roxie and the Hooligans*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2006.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *The Dreamer*. Scholastic Press, 2010.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Jake and Lily*. Balzer + Bray, 2012.

Stead, Rebecca. *Liar and Spy*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2012.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman: Secret Identity*. Random House, 2004.

Wilhelm, Doug. *The Revealers*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.

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Picture Books on Bullying:

Javaherbin, Mina. *Goal!* Candlewick Press, 2010.
Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Houghton Mifflin, Co., 1999.
Lovell, Patty. *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001.
Ludwig, Trudy. *Confessions of a Former Bully*. Tricycle Press, 2010.
Ludwig, Trudy. *My Secret Bully*. Riverwood Books, 2003.
O'Neill, Alexis. *The Recess Queen*. Scholastic Press, 2002.
Pham, Leyen. *Freckleface Strawberry and the Dodgeball Bully*. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2009.
Staake, Bob. *Bluebird*. Schwartz & Wade, 2013.
Otoshi, Kathryn. *One*. KO Kids Books, 2008.
Wells, Rosemary. *Benjamin and Tulip*. Dial Press, 1973.

ACTIVITIES

Overview of Treacher-Collins Syndrome

After you've started the book, give your students an overview of Treacher-Collins Syndrome, the syndrome that causes Auggie's facial deformities. The following site contains basic information.

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002624

Family Relationships

Have your students discuss Auggie's relationship with each of his family members. How do his father, mother, and sister respond to Auggie's deformity, and how is his or her life affected? What sacrifices must each character make?

Friendship

Have a discussion of the characteristics of a good friend. Which of Auggie's friends demonstrate these qualities? Does Auggie? How does Auggie help his friends see him as an ordinary kid? Could other kids use Auggie's techniques?

Precepts

According to Mr. Browne, a precept is anything that helps guide someone when making important decisions. As a starting point, teachers could ask students to brainstorm precepts that could be used at school to make it a kinder, safer place. Then, have students write down all precepts from the book and brainstorm as a class or in small groups the meaning of each precept and how it relates to students and adults in the book. At the end of the book, ask students to write their own precept and illustrate it with an iconic picture. This could be done as an in-class or take-home activity.

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Song Lyrics

Many chapters begin with song lyrics. Have students focus on the song lyrics that are sprinkled throughout the book. Have students research the artists, their era, and their type of music. Have students play the song (or show the YouTube video) mentioned. For the adventurous, you could establish Karaoke Fridays! Ask students to interpret the meaning of the song lyrics and why R.J. Palacio has referenced so many songs in the book.

Betrayal

Why do “friends” sometimes talk “trash” about their friends behind their backs (like Jack does to Auggie)? How should you deal with betrayal by a friend? Should you try to repair a friendship or relationship? What actions should you take?

Bullying

Have a discussion of bullying. What constitutes bullying today? How does Auggie know that Julian will be a bully? How does Auggie respond? Have your students share bullying situations they’ve seen or been part of. Have them isolate their behavior. Then, discuss actions and words for students to use if they see a bully and how to recognize if they are being a bully.

Poetry

Auggie says, “I felt very sad and a tiny bit happy at the exact same time, kind of like that laughing-crying feeling.” (p. 33). Feeling two emotions simultaneously is not unusual. Divide students into partnerships and ask them to work together to write a poem in two voices. One voice expresses Auggie’s sadness at various points of the story while the other voice expresses his happiness. Have students read their poems aloud to the other students.

Humor

R.J. Palacio uses humor throughout *Wonder*. Have students share examples (with specific pages references) of when and how different characters use humor. Look specifically at the chapter “How I Came to Life.” Being able to diffuse tension or entertain others with humor is a great skill. Share YouTube videos of some of your favorite comedians, and then allow kids to share jokes and funny skits of their own.

Demonstrate Kindness

Principal Tushman states at the end of the year, “Always try to be a little kinder than necessary.” Celebrate kindness with your students, from acts within school or outside school. Have kids share their experiences.

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***Star Wars* Characters**

Auggie loves *Star Wars*. Have students discuss why Auggie identifies with the characters. Next, have some students create a “visual dictionary” of the *Star Wars* characters mentioned in the book as you read. Post the pictures and the description in the library.

Research on Childhood Conditions

Brainstorm with your students other illnesses or conditions that affect children (from leukemia to Cleft palate to Asperger's Syndrome to autism), causing them to act or look differently from others. Pass out some short articles on these illnesses or conditions to groups of students. Have these groups summarize the information and make a short presentation to the other students. These presentations should focus on understanding differences and treating others with kindness and respect. Alternatively or additionally, discuss with your class how society at different times has used different words to describe students with “differences.” Have them examine the words used by characters in the story. For example, Mrs. Albans uses the word “handicapped” to describe Auggie. Discuss with your students how different labels affect our attitudes and behaviors.

Create Comic Strips

Auggie and other characters refer to famous books or cartoons throughout the book, for example *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, *Bone*, *Avatar*, and *Star Wars*. Have students use the characters in these books along with the characters in *Wonder* to create an original comic strip or to illustrate a scene from the book.

Rubik's Cubes

Have Rubik's cubes in the library (the original brightly colored versions as well as the silver version that Mr. Tushman has) and celebrate student successes in solving the puzzle.

Shoe Design

Auggie loves shoes. Challenge your students to find specific pages where Auggie mentions shoes or where shoes are mentioned by other characters. Then ask kids to design their own shoe. Have them share what makes their shoe special, from styling to comfort to endorsements.

Existing Online Activities

Although this book was published in 2012, there are already many teachers who have created some great activities related to the book. The above activities were gathered and modified from several websites, but following are a few great websites if you want even more detail:

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R.J. Palacio's Discussion Questions for Teachers: <http://rjpalacio.com/for-teachers.html>

Help Readers Love Reading:

www.helpreaderslovereading.com/2012/03/wonder-by-r-j-palacio.html

Random House's Discussion Guide for Teachers:

http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Wonder_EG_WEB.pdf