

level
B2.2

LESSON PLAN 1/5



WONDER

Aim:

- to develop reading skills and expand vocabulary
- to predict the continuation of a story
- to identify a literary genre
- to encourage the pleasure of reading

Expansive Reading Theme: Growing up and the power of friendship! This cross-curricular feature allows students to explore the historical background, cultural connections and other topics of the dossiers and the story.

Level: A2

Time: 45 minutes

Materials :

1. front cover of the graded reader **WONDER**
2. worksheet – Parts 1 and 2

INTRODUCTION

This lesson plan introduces *Wonder*, a book by the American author, R. J. Palacio, that talks about people who look different. The short extract chosen will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary, delve into the character of August, the protagonist, and predict what will happen in the story. With the new special feature, the *Expansive Reading Theme*, students will enjoy exploring the topics of the dossiers and the text, with their cross-curricular approach. All of this with the aim of increasing their pleasure in reading a wonderful book.

BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE STORY

Wonder is a modern story by R. J. Palacio, an American writer. It is about a ten-year-old boy called August Pullman who was born with a facial deformity and some health problems. He does all the things other boys do and his family loves him. He studies at home with his mother, until it's time for him to go to a real school. Here he meets all kinds of children—kind and unkind, polite and impolite—a real challenge for him.

DISCUSSION AND PREDICTION:

At this point there are some questions that need to be answered. What do you think? Circle either true or false.

1. August cannot really do all the things other boys do.
2. August doesn't learn much at home with his mother.
3. August does not want to go to a real school.
4. August will make friends at school.

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LESSON PLAN 2/5



PROCEDURE

Before the lesson:

- make a copy of the worksheet, Parts 1 and 2 (one for each student).
- download a photo of students of a typical American middle school –
- tell your students you're going to be speaking about a book called *Wonder*
- read the background notes on the story to the class

PART ONE

Step One (10 minutes)

Ask the students to comment on their first impressions and ask them these questions:

- What genre do you think it is?
- Have you read any other book by R.J. Palacio?

Show the students the cover illustration and ask them these questions.

- Why do we see only the back of the boy's head?
- Which picture on the wall shows the face of the protagonist, August Pullman?

Step Two (20 minutes)

Give students the *Worksheet Part 1*, and explain that the text comes from Chapter One, August.

- Ask the students to read *EXERCISE 1, the extract*. Then you could read it out loud to make the story more dramatic.

Then ask students to read it again, alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding the second time.

- Ask them to do *EXERCISE 2 and the QUICK QUIZ*.

Ask them to work in pairs to check their answers.

[KEY: 1c, 2f, 3a, 4b, 5d, 6e. QUIZ: 1 best, 2 worst, 3 prettiest, 4 oldest, 5 sickest]

- Ask students to comment with their opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.

- Ask students to watch the **Video** about *Wonder* [<https://youtu.be/iwINiNEVMkk>] and to do the exercises.

[KEY: 1. verb, 2. noun, 3. Adjective]



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LESSON PLAN 3/5

PART TWO: THEME (15 minutes)

Growing up and the power of friendship

- Tell your students that the purpose of this new theme is to make them part of “cross-curricular learning”, to connect what is happening in today’s world with their daily lives. Their comments and opinions are the backbone of this kind of learning.
- Ask them to do Part 2 of the worksheet in class.
- If there is no time in class, this activity can be written homework.

