



Lutter pour une meilleure intégration des handicapés et contre le harcèlement scolaire avec **Wonder**

Un film de Stephen Chbosky, 2017

Type d'activité : Questionnaire et réflexion sur les enjeux du film

Durée : 2 -3 h

Introduction

Adapté du *best seller* du même nom de R.J. Palacio (2012), *Wonder* retrace l'émouvant parcours d'Auggie Pullman, enfant atteint d'une malformation faciale congénitale due au syndrome de Treacher Collins. Plutôt que de revenir sur son douloureux parcours chirurgical, le film choisit de nous montrer Auggie lors de sa première année d'école élémentaire, forcément difficile du fait des moqueries des autres enfants. Le film se déploie alors comme une belle leçon de courage et d'amitié, changeant plusieurs fois de point de vue pour éviter tout jugement hâtif. Cette incroyable histoire vraie ne se contentera pas d'attendrir nos élèves ; elle permettra une réflexion sur l'école inclusive et la question du vivre ensemble tout en s'inscrivant dans le programme transversal de lutte contre le harcèlement scolaire.

Dans les programmes

Discipline	Niveau	Objets d'étude	Compétences
Anglais	Cycle 4 Seconde	Ecole et société Représentation de soi et rapport à autrui	► CO, EO, EE, interaction



Wonder

A film by Stephen Chbosky, 2017

Based on a true story, this movie tells the incredibly inspiring and heart-warming story of August Pullman, a boy with facial differences who attends a mainstream elementary school for the first time.

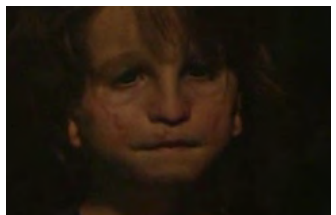
I / HOW WELL DO YOU REMEMBER THE FILM?

How good is your memory? Did you pay attention to every little detail in the film? Answer the following quiz to find out!

- 1 /** Auggie's real name is : a) August b) Augustus c) July
- 2 /** Auggie enters: a) 1st grade b) 5th grade c) 7th grade
- 3 /** The film takes place in : a) Los Angeles b) San Francisco
c) Chicago d) New York City

4 / Auggie's mum is

- a) a book illustrator b) a nurse
- c) a sociologist d) a teacher



5 / Auggie's face is disfigured because :

- a) he had a car accident b) he was born like that
- c) he was born with disabilities and had multiple surgeries

6 / Auggie had: a) 15 surgeries b) 27 surgeries c) 42 surgeries

7 / Via plays the role of Emily in a play entitled : a) *Our Town* b) *Fiddle on a Roof* c) *Fame*

8 / Who took Auggie's helmet?

- a) his dad b) his mum c) his sister d) Julian



9 / Auggie and Jack win the science contest with :

- a) an erupting volcano b) a space rocket c) a camera obscura

10 / Auggie's dog's name is : a) Maisie b) Lazy c) Daisy d) Violet

II/ IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERS AND THEIR CONNECTIONS

Look at the pictures, say who these people are and how they are related to the others.



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III/ THINK ABOUT THE FILM

Answer the following questions, alone or in groups:

- 1/ How does Via feel about her little brother? Why does she tell Justin that she is an only child?
- 2/ Explain what happens between Via and Miranda, then Auggie and Jack Will. How do they make up in the end?
- 3/ Where did Auggie go to school before now? Why did he change? Would you like to do this too?
- 4/ Why do you think Auggie loves Halloween? Why does he dream to be an astronaut?



- 5/ Which character is Auggie's complete opposite?



- 6/ The film starts and ends on the first and last days of school. Why are these important moments in Auggie's life?

- 7/ Is Julian (the bully) punished at the end?
- 8/ How does Auggie's success in school affect the rest of his family?



- 9/ Who is this character we see repeatedly in the film? Is he real? What's his connection to Auggie?

- 10/ The film is divided into chapters bearing the names of various characters (Via/ Jack Will/ Miranda). Why did the director choose to do that?
- 11/ What is the moral of the film?
- 12/ Look up the word "wonder" in the dictionary and try to guess why it was chosen as the title for the book and the film about Auggie's life.

IV/ DEBATE!

In groups, discuss one of the following questions:

1/ Who is your favourite character in the film? Why?



2/ Imagine that a kid with a different face like Auggie arrived in your school. Do you think he would have the same problems?



3/ If you saw a kid being bullied in your school, what would you do? Who should you tell?

EXTRA RESEARCH!

You may do some online research :

- on the floppy disk : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floppy_disk
- read about the play staged in the film : <https://stageagent.com/shows/play/1251/our-town>
- try to build your own camera obscura like Jack and Auggie : <https://www.instructables.com/id/Cardboard-Camera-Obscura/> .



Éléments de correction

I/ 1a; 2b; 3d; 4a ; 5c ; 6b ; 7a ; 8a ; 9c ; 10c

II/ Auggie Pullman is a little boy who was born with disabilities and endured many surgeries so his face looks different. Jack Will is Auggie's friend. At some point Jack does not support Auggie so they grow apart but in the end Jack fights to defend Auggie and they are best friends again. Summer is one of the first pupils in Auggie's class to make friends with him. Mr. Pullman is Auggie and Via's father. He is fun and caring. Mrs Pullman is Auggie and Via's mother. She is very dedicated to Auggie's well-being. Via (Olivia) is Auggie's elder sister. She loves him but wishes she had more of her parents' attention. Justin is Via's boyfriend. He encourages to sign in for drama club. Miranda was Via's best friend and almost a family member. Miranda let Via down after summer but eventually regrets it. Julian is a bully. He constantly makes fun of Auggie's face and sends him abusive notes and drawings.

III/ 1/ Via loves Auggie but she resents her parents for caring only about him sometimes. She pretends to be a single child because Julian is one and she maybe dreams of being her parents' only point of focus.

2/ Via and Miranda used to be best friends but then Miranda let Via down with no explanation. At the end she realized she had been jealous of her and lets her play her leading role in the school play. Jack Will is Auggie's first school friend but he won't admit it in front of the other schoolboys who make fun of Auggie. In the end he fights for Auggie and they make up. Both Miranda and Jack redeem themselves by sacrificing something (the leading role, popularity) to prove they can be good friends.

3/ Auggie was homeschooled, which means that he stayed at home and his mother taught him. His parents thought it would be easier for him because of all his medical appointments and because he would not have to face other children's stares at school.

4/ Auggie loves Halloween because he can hide his face behind a mask and pretend to be someone else. Halloween is when it's cool to have a scary face. He wants to be an astronaut because he loves science but mostly because he feels out of this world and dreams of another life on another planet where he would fit. His helmet/ spacesuit is also a way for him to hide under another identity. Pretending helps him cope with a harsher reality.

5/ The little blonde girl who stars on Broadway, Charlotte, is Auggie's perfect opposite because her whole identity is built upon her good looks. She is popular, vain, talkative and self-confident, everything Auggie is not.

6/ Auggie's first year in elementary school drastically changes his life, from social hell to acceptance and success at all levels. His (true) story replicates the American Dream, from anti-hero to hero, rejection to acceptance, exclusion to inclusion. He starts as an outcast (a "freak") and ends up on a stage, applauded by the entire school community. He is also crowned with success at the science fair (first prize).

7/ Julian is not punished by his parents because they support his discriminatory behaviour. He gets suspended for 2 days, which seems little, but mostly his parents decide that he will change schools, which is his real punishment. It will be his turn to be new and friendless at school. His former friends now side with Auggie.

8/ His parents get some private time together (when he goes on a school trip), his mother gets to finish her thesis and her sister gets the recognition she deserves. Everyone benefits from his new normal life because they can finally **resume their own**.

9/ Chewbacca is a friendly Star Wars character. Auggie, who is a Star Wars fan, imagines that Chewbacca is in school with him so that he does not feel so lonely/ friendless. He identifies with Chewbacca because he looks different but has a good heart, like him. This escapism / imaginary friend is his way to cope with challenging moments at school.

10/ The director wanted to show that there are always several sides to the same story; by showing Jack's, Miranda's and Via's points of view instead of just Auggie's, he allowed us to see that people acting unjustly are not necessarily bad. By adding multiple perspectives on the story he prevented the plot from being too Manichean. Via for example is entitled not to love having a little brother all the time because it is hard for her never to be her parents' priority. Multiple points of view enable to show the sacrifices all the characters have or choose to make.

11/ The moral of the film is that real friends will help you through life. One cannot spend his life alone. It's also about accepting people as they are, with their differences, and loving them for what they do and say, not what they look like. It encourages us to embrace difference and reject preconceived ideas.

12/ Auggie's mother tell him he is a wonder of nature, something Auggie does not believe until he gets his medal (and official public acknowledgement) at the end. As a verb, "wonder" also means "to question" and it's also true that people, when they see Auggie, always wonder what happened to him and what it feels like to be him.

Dossier conçu et rédigé par Aurélie Duchaussoy pour Zérodeconduite.

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