

Name: Example

Date: _____

Wonder (3-7) "Ordinary"

RL 5.3, RL 5.6

Lesson Objective: Contrast the narrator's perspective on himself with the way others see him.

Do Now

Directions: Today, we'll begin reading the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. The following quote is important to characters in the book. Read the quote and choose at least two of the reflection questions to respond to.

When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind. (Dr. Wayne D. Dyer)

1. What does it mean to be kind? Is being kind different from being nice? How so?

- caring for others
- treating people how we want to be treated
- not just polite/not mean, trying to improve lives of others

*IF students struggle, prompt to start w/ Q 2

2. When might "[choosing] kind" be hard to do?

- if someone is mean to us
- when we're angry/hurt/scared/frustrated
- if it's not a friend/someone we care about

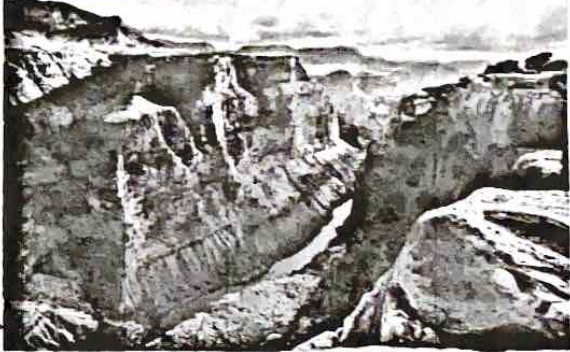

3. Can you think of a situation when someone would have to choose between "being right" and "being kind"? When might "being right" be unkind?

- bragging/showing off
- telling the truth and hurting someone's feelings

[90 seconds T+T
3 min ~~deb~~ debrief]

4 min rollout

Vocabulary: Wonder, Ordinary

Word	Definition	Related Parts of Speech	Situations	*How is this an example of a <u>wonder</u> ? Image
C+R wonder noun	CC to read 1) something <u>extraordinary</u> ; a marvel 2) a feeling of surprised, excited admiration	wonder verb wondrous adjective wonderful adjective	CC • We watched the fireworks show with wonder and amazement. *Why might we watch the fireworks with <u>wonder</u> ? TNT	
C+R ordinary adjective	CC normal or usual; not different, unexpected or special ant: <u>extraordinary</u>	ordinary noun	CC • My life is pretty ordinary—nothing exciting or surprising ever happens to me. *What does it mean for life to be <u>ordinary</u> ?	

(extra = outside/beyond)

life to be ordinary

*How does this picture connect to the meaning of ordinary? TNT

6 min

Vocabulary Active Practice

Use a form of the vocabulary word as you respond to each question.

1. The Grand Canyon, the Northern Lights, and Mount Everest are all considered wonders of the natural world. Why might people travel great distances to see these wonders?

↪ so extraordinary/marvelous
that people will make an effort to see

why might these be considered wonders?

- X 2. As a verb, wonder means to be curious or want to know more about something. What are you wondering about our new novel, *Wonder*?

3. Why might someone enjoy reading books about ordinary people instead of famous or magical people?

T+T easier to connect/relate
feels familiar/normal

Extension:
do you agree?

- X 4. The prefix extra- means "outside or beyond," so the word extraordinary means unusual and remarkable or something "outside" the ordinary. Is a wonder likely to be extraordinary? Why or why not?

5. Would you expect to see a wonder on an ordinary day? Why or why not?

wouldn't expect to see a
wonder, not likely to see
something extraordinary/incredible
on a normal, expected day

90 sec.
silent solo
→ T+T

cc

(wouldn't be an ordinary day anymore!)

SAY: Excited to begin Wonder by R.J. Palacio
While I read Ch. 1, think about,

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Page 3: "Ordinary"

Read Aloud ~ 2 min

- 1 Turn and Task: Who is telling this story? What is your first impression of him? Jot 1-2 notes about the narrator in the box below.

KB

storyteller

T + T, share out impressions

Notes

- narrator = August
- 10 yo boy, same likes/hobbies/activities as most kids
- something about his face is unexpected/frightens others

"We're starting to notice some important things about this narrator. Let's reread opening to analyze more"

2. Reread the opening paragraph of the novel (p. 3):

I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary, I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

cc 1-2/each g

- a. Turn and Task: What is ordinary about August? What is not ordinary about him?

- b. What is August explaining in the opening paragraph of the novel? Write one sentence, beginning with the phrase "Even though."

Even though August feels like an ordinary kid on the inside, people don't treat him like he's ordinary.

show call *contrast

btw A's perspective and others' perspective

3. a Turn and Task: Reread p. 3 with your partner and underline evidence of how people respond when they see August.

- b. How does August react when people respond to him this way? What does he wish would happen? Why?

August pretends not to notice/ignores it

wishes he had ordinary face (same as everyone else)

People would see him the way he sees himself

* IF A had an ordinary face, what would happen?

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• run away screaming
• stared at

• faces people make
• look-away thing

only use as

extra at-bat if students struggle to name others contrast btw A's perspective + others'

X 4. Consider these lines from p. 3:

Via doesn't see me as ordinary. She says she does, but if I were ordinary, she wouldn't feel like she needs to protect me as much. And Mom and Dad don't see me as ordinary, either. They see me as extraordinary. I think the only person in the world who realizes how ordinary I am is me.

Why does August think he is "the only person in the world who realizes how ordinary [he is]"?

5. Consider the final line of this opening chapter (p. 3):

My name is August, by the way. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

2 min
silent solo
Turn and Talk: Who is August speaking to in this line? What is he explaining?
→ CC
→ he knows we're wondering about his face but won't describe it
→ to us, the readers

Why might R.J. Palacio have ended the first chapter of the novel with these lines?

- introduce August, get to know him
- Feel connected to August
- not distracted by his face (see him how he sees himself)
- shows story will come from A's perspective

* How do you feel about A after Ch. 1?
* What does Palacio do in Ch. 1?
* Why have A. talk to readers directly?
CC strong ideas to launch discussion

3 min
silent solo to revise, include term "narrator"

Additional Insights

Palacio may have ended Ch. 1 with these lines to help readers feel connected to August, the narrator of the story.

Show call revisions (if time)

Pages 4-5: "Why I Didn't Go to School"

Annotation Task: As we read, underline evidence that helps you respond to these questions:

5 min

T + T to share annotations, precall 1-2

- What is ordinary about August's life?
- What does not seem ordinary or typical?

Ordinary	Not Ordinary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> friendships, wants to hang out / go to bday parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> medical condition many surgeries doesn't go to school

Roll out developmental writing

6. Complete each of the following sentences:

- August doesn't go to school ^{why?} because he often needs surgeries and gets sick frequently.

- August doesn't go to school, but ^{change/contrast} this year he is starting 5th grade.

- August doesn't go to school, so ^{as a result} his mother homeschools him / so the idea of starting school is frightening.

7. On p. 5, August thinks, "Maybe I'm making too big a deal about birthday parties." Why do you think birthday parties are so important to him? What might they represent? Challenge: Include the word ordinary in your response.

challenge for early finishers

Pages 6-7: "How I Came to Life"

Annotation Task: ^{while reading} According to August, when his mom tells "this story," he and Via "just start cracking up." As we read, underline any parts of the story that might make August laugh. Are there any moments you think are particularly funny?

(no debrief of annotations)

Notes

Farts 😊
fainting doctor
yelling nurse

8. Turn and Talk: Why does the whole room "[get] very quiet" when August is born (p. 6)?

→ pre-call one accurate response

9. August explains that he "[likes] when Mom tells this story" (p. 6) because "she acts out all the parts—including the farting noises—and it is so, so, so, so funny" (p. 7).

everyone shocked/worried → no one expected his condition

Consider this experience from Mom's perspective. How do you think she felt after August was born? Do you think his birth felt "so funny" to her? Underline any evidence that supports your thinking.

Mom: [worried, scared, confused], not sure if A. would survive, not funny

→ mom's feelings

p. 7 "Mom got very upset"

"Mom was hysterical"

extreme uncontrolled emotion

"after I lived through the night... held Mom's hand"

Why might Mom emphasize the humor when she tells this story to August? What could this tell us about her character and about their family?

Mom might tell this story in a funny way

because she doesn't want August to feel sad about the day he was born

* How might A. feel if Mom told the story differently?

* Family laughs about tough times, makes each other laugh

* What does Mom want August to understand?

10. Turn and Talk: When the doctors tell Mom August might not live through the night, the nurse tells her, "Everyone born of God overcometh the world" (p. 7). The word "overcometh" means to overcome or win a victory over. What do you think the nurse means by this? Why might she say this to Mom?

Everyone who is born can overcome challenges/win a victory

→ trying to comfort/support Mom

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exit Ticket

10 min

1. Reread this line from p. 3:

Here's what I think: the only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way.

Who is the **narrator** of this story? What is he explaining in this line? ^{even more} Challenge: Include the words **wonder** and/or **ordinary** in your response.

August is the narrator of the story. He is explaining that even though he thinks of himself as ordinary, no one treats him that way, so he doesn't have an ordinary life.

If students struggle:

sentence frame → Even though August thinks

_____,
other people

_____,
so _____