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**Book Author: R.J. Palacio**

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**Book Title: Auggie & Me by R. J. Palacio**

I read the book “*Wonder”* written by R. J. Palacioa year ago, and I enjoyed it immensely. It is about a ten-year-old boy named August Pullman (Auggie), who is born with facial deformities and looks very different from other kids. The book “*Auggie & Me”* is not a sequel to “*Wonder”*, which begins as Auggie prepares to enter middle school. Up until this point in his life, due to his medical condition, he has been home schooled.

The book *“Auggie & Me”* follows Auggie through the highs and lows of middle school including bullying and forging friendships. In this book, readers get a glimpse of other perspectives of Auggie by three individuals who play key roles in his life. “*Wonder”* is Auggie’s story, from the beginning to the ending, and *“Auggie & Me”* is an expansion of Auggie’s world and a new side to the *“Wonder”* story. There are three stories from three different characters – Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie’s oldest friend; and Charlotte, one of Auggie’s new friends at school. The stories are about how each character reacts to Auggie, and how his presence at Beecher Prep changes their lives for the better.

The first story, Julian’s Chapter, is about Auggie’s school bully, Julian, and his point of view. For him, he has not been bullying Auggie, instead Auggie has been stealing his friends, giving him nightmares and terrorising his reputation in the schoolyard. However, when Julian visited his grandmother in Paris, his grandmother told him a touching story about a handicapped boy who had saved her life. Julian cried and finally felt remorseful for persecuting Auggie. Julian has learnt over his mistakes and finds out about his past and Auggie. Remarkably, Julian goes through a transformation of his own.

Pluto, the second chapter, looks at Auggie’s story through his lifelong best friend, Christopher’s eyes. Auggie and Chris have been friends since birth, but Chris moves away before Auggie starts at Beecher Prep, so he is not there to protect Auggie at his new school. The story offers readers a view of Auggie’s life prior to entering middle school through the point of view of Christopher. I appreciate Chris as he is brave and funny. He is also very supportive to a friend struggling with so much, as he does not care what is on the outside of someone.  
  
 Shingaling, the third and my favourite story, is about Charlotte, a young girl struggling to fit in with her female peers. She also goes on a journey, but hers is one to overcome her own social awkwardness. Shingaling offers another view of Auggie’s experience in *“Wonder”* but through the eyes of Charlotte. Charlotte is one of Auggie’s welcome buddies as he transitioned into middle school. This story gives us way more of the perspective the girls have and the friends that they become. It also offers a girl’s perspective of Auggie’s experience and tells us some events that readers of “*Wonder”* does not know: whispered secrets, rampant rumors, the social status ladder, rejection’s sting, and the warmth of acceptance of others and oneself.

On the whole, “*Auggie & Me”*, which is a wonderful addition to the August Pullman story, is a brilliant book which worths reading. The author creates such memorable and relatable characters and situations, and teaches important lessons in genuine ways. Filled with quotes from the book and questions that are both fun and insightful, this book has added to the important lessons learned in *“Wonder”*. The stories are truly remarkable and incredibly touching!