

Wonder-inspired writing task – Creating an extraordinary character

This is the first page of the book 'Wonder', page 3. Read it through and then do the activities below:

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. If I found a magic lamp and I could have one wish, I would wish that I had a normal face that no one ever noticed at all. I would wish that I could walk down the street without people seeing me and then doing that look-away thing. Here's what I think: the only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way. But I'm kind of used to how I look by now. I know how to pretend I don't see the faces people make. We've all gotten pretty good at that sort of thing: me, Mom and Dad, Via. Actually, I take that back: Via's not so good at it. She can get really annoyed when people do something rude. Like, for instance, one time in the playground some older kids made some noises. I don't even know what the noises were exactly because I didn't hear them myself, but Via heard and she just started yelling at the kids. That's the way she is. I'm not that way. 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. My name is August, by the way. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

Here is a list of facts about August's character. Read one item from the list at a time, and put a tick next to it if this is something you or other members of your family share with Auggie. What do these facts tell us about Auggie? August might look different on the outside, but he is very ordinary on the inside.

AUGGIE PULLMAN...

...is ten years old	<input type="text"/>
...eats ice cream	<input type="text"/>
...rides a bike	<input type="text"/>
...plays ball	<input type="text"/>
...has an Xbox	<input type="text"/>
...likes Star Wars	<input type="text"/>
...has a sister	<input type="text"/>
...is kind	<input type="text"/>
...is funny	<input type="text"/>
...hates his mom talking to him like a baby in front of others	<input type="text"/>
...has a pet dog	<input type="text"/>
...is a good artist	<input type="text"/>
...likes science	<input type="text"/>

Your job today is to create an animal character who, like Auggie, looks different from all its friends on the outside. It might be a lion with a blue mane, or a rabbit with no ears, or a snake who has legs! You can choose any animal you like – probably best to pick one you know lots about.

Now fill in the fact-file on the next page for your animal (or copy the headings into your exercise book) and do a quick drawing of it too.

My animal is a

Habitat:

Diet:

Special skills:

Interesting fact:

This type of animal usually looks like:

.....

.....

My animal character is different on the outside because:

.....

.....

.....

This creates difficulties for my character because:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Now look at page 3 of the book again.

What do you notice about the way it is written?

It is first-person perspective, and is written in quite simple, conversational prose, as if Auggie is just talking directly to the reader.

Your task today is to write a new introduction to Wonder in this same style, and from the point of view of the animal character you have just created – imagine your animal is the main character, rather than August.

There is a writing frame on the next page to help you to structure your introduction, and you may want to keep referring back to the original introduction on page 3 to help give you ideas for what to write.

However, you can write without using all of the writing frame if you are feeling confident.

If you have time, you could continue your story, imagining your character goes somewhere for the very first time (like Auggie goes to school). How do the other animals react to your character's extraordinary appearance? What happens next?

I know I'm not an ordinary _____. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things.

I _____. I _____. I _____

_____. I _____. Stuff like that makes me

ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary _____

don't make other ordinary _____ run away _____

_____. I know ordinary _____

don't _____.

If I found a magic lamp and I could have one wish, I would wish _____

_____.

Here's what I think: _____

_____.

