

# Friday Family Movie Night: Wonder



*Discuss the following questions as a family. Pick what jumps out to you and fits for the ages/people in your family. Set the rule that everyone shares an answer and no judgement of answers is allowed. The goals: have open conversations, learn about each other and have fun.*

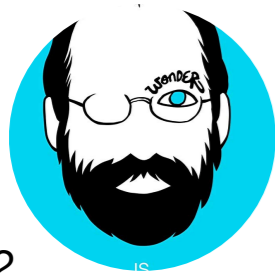
1. In the first few minutes of the movie, Auggie describes himself. How would you describe yourself? In what ways are you similar to Auggie? In what ways are you different?
2. Auggie talks about starting middle school and describes feeling "totally and completely petrified." When have you felt like that?
3. On the school tour, the other students aren't sure how to understand Auggie or what is OK to ask. When have you been misunderstood or misjudged?

4. Auggie says, "My mom always said, if you don't like where you are, just picture where you want to be." Auggie pictures himself as an astronaut with others chanting and cheering for him. When you are having a hard time in a new situation, where would you like to picture yourself? What do you think about this strategy?
5. Auggie's teacher describes precepts- They are like a motto, and help guide us and motivate us. He asks the students to ask themselves, "Who is it that I aspire to be? What kind of person am I?" How would you answer those questions?
6. Via tells Auggie, "If they stare, let them stare. You can't blend in when you were born to stand out." How do you think Auggie feels about that? How do you feel about that?
7. Via runs into her friend Miranda and realizes that Miranda has been back from camp for several weeks but has not responded to Via's texts. Sometimes friendships change over time. When have you had a friendship that changed. What led to the change?
8. In science class there is a pop quiz and Auggie cheats to help Jack. What do you think led him to cheat? Do you think this was the right choice?
9. Via says that she feels closest to her grandmother. Who is someone who believed in you & knew you were special? A parent, sibling, teacher, coach, neighbor, etc. Is there someone who you make feel special? How do you do that?
10. Halloween is Auggie's favorite holiday. What time or event makes you feel the best?
11. Some kids say they would put a hood over their head if they looked like Auggie. Then Jack says that if he looked like Auggie, he'd kill himself. Jack says he is only friends with Auggie because the principal asked him to show Auggie around, but now Auggie follows him around. Do you think this is true? Why do you think Jack said this? Why do you think the other kids were saying mean things about Auggie? If you were one of the kids, what would you want to say?
12. Via & her Mom had a movie day planned but Mom leaves to go take care of Auggie again. How does Via



feel here? How does Mom feel? How does Auggie feel?

13. Have you become friends with someone and were surprised they became a friend? Maybe you were very different from them, maybe you thought of them differently than they were. What changed to have this person become a friend?
14. Have you ever told a lie to help you fit in or pretend to be different somehow? How did it make you feel in the moment? Later? Did the lie come out?
15. Miranda pretended to have a different family than the one she has. Would you like to change anything about your family?
16. When Auggie and Jack play online video games together, Jack apologizes for what he said. Do you think he meant that apology?
17. How do you think Via felt after her play? When has someone believed in you for a play, sport, school project, family task, or other special role? When have you helped someone else achieve something important?
18. Julian's parents' talk to Principal Tushman about his notes & bullying of Auggie. What do you think about their response? The word bullying gets used a lot, but it's important to note the difference between bullying and being mean. For behavior to be considered bullying, it must be 1) aggressive, 2) include an imbalance of power and be 3) repeated. Does Julian's behavior count as bullying?
19. While the movie is told from a lot of different people's points of view, Julian's point of view is not included. What do you think influenced his behavior toward Auggie? Do you think Julian has something about himself or his life that he'd like to change?



20. At graduation, Auggie's Mom says "You really are a Wonder, Auggie". What is something you have accomplished that you are proud of?
21. Auggie says, "Maybe the truth is, I'm really not so ordinary. Maybe if we knew what other people were thinking, we'd know that no one is ordinary and that we all deserve a standing ovation at least once in our lives." In what way have you been celebrated? In what way have you celebrated someone else?
22. Auggie talks about the people in his life who deserve an award. Who in your life deserves an award? In what ways do you deserve an award?
23. Auggie shares the last precept Mr. Brown gave them: "*Be Kind, for everyone is fighting a hard battle. And if you really want to see what people are, all you have to do... is look.*" Make it a goal to find out more about your family members. Did you learn anything new about your family today? How can you keep that going?

