

READING AND WRITING

Read the document and answer the questions:

Mr Tushman, the headmaster of Beecher Prep middle school, asked three students to be particularly nice to Auggie at the start of the year and make sure that he was not excluded. However by lunchtime of the first day, Auggie was alone in the cafeteria. He could not find a place to sit; everyone said they were waiting for someone. Auggie finally sat down at an empty table. He could feel people looking at him and talking about him. But then a pretty girl called Summer asked if she could sit with him. This second extract is narrated by Summer.

Some kids have actually come out and asked me why I hang out¹ with “the freak”² so much. These are kids that don’t even know him well. If they knew him, they wouldn’t call him that.

“Because he’s a nice kid!” I always answer. “And don’t call him that.”

5 “You’re a saint, Summer,” Ximena Chin said to me the other day. “I couldn’t do what you’re doing.”

“It’s not a big deal,³” I answered her truthfully.

“Did Mr. Tushman ask you to be friends with him?” Charlotte Cody asked.

“No. I’m friends with him because I want to be friends with him,” I answered.

10 Who knew that my sitting with August Pullman at lunch would be such a big deal? People acted like it was the strangest thing in the world. It’s weird⁴ how weird kids can be.

I sat with him that first day because I felt sorry for him. That’s all. Here he was, this strange-looking kid in a brand-new school. No one was talking to him. Everyone was staring⁵ at him. All the girls at my table were whispering⁶ about him. He wasn’t the only
15 new kid at Beecher Prep, but he was the only one everyone was talking about. Julian had nicknamed⁷ him the Zombie Kid, and that’s what everyone was calling him. “Did you see the Zombie Kid yet?” Stuff⁸ like that gets around⁹ fast. And August knew it. It’s hard enough being the new kid even when you have a normal face. Imagine having his face?

So I just went over and sat with him. Not a biggie¹⁰. I wish people would stop trying
20 to turn it into something major.

He’s just a kid. The weirdest-looking kid I’ve ever seen, yes. But just a kid.

Title : Weird Kids from Wonder by R.J. Palacio, 2012

1. What type of document is it?
2. a. Name the three main characters of the story.
b. What do they do in the story?
3. What is wrong with Auggie?
4. What other nick names were given to Auggie?
5. Are those nicknames positive or negative?
6. Can you identify 3 different reactions of other kids towards Auggie?
7. What decision did Summer take? And why?
8. What is the possible message of the story?

