



Watch the film



Discuss Themes



Key scenes



Close the curtain



Film Synopsis

August “Auggie” Pullman (*Jacob Tremblay*) was born with Treacher Collins syndrome, and despite enduring numerous surgeries, he still lives with multiple facial deformities. His mother Isabel (*Julia Roberts*) has homeschooled him for the first few years of his life, but his parents decide it is time for him to enter school at year five. His new principal tries to help Auggie to adapt to the school by introducing him to some of his classmates before the term, but nothing can adequately prepare him for the other students’ responses to his condition. As he travels through this new season of his life, he becomes the centre of the story, but director Stephen Chbosky (*Perks of Being A Wallflower*) manages to show what effect it is to be a person in Auggie’s relational orbit.

What is striking about this story is that the central character is born with a physical deformity, but the film is not about the condition. Palacio’s story takes us through the different layers of how situations like these in our lives do not happen in a vacuum. Watching the narrative unfold on the screen provides an appreciation for families who strive to make the most of the challenges that come into their lives.



Movie Talk: Reel Dialogue discussion

Did you enjoy the film, and why or why not? Did it remind you of any part of your life at school?

What was the hardest thing to watch during this film about August “Auggie” Pullman?



Key scenes

Follow the linked headings to press "play"

Asking questions

Auggie heads to school is confronted by other students who do not understand his condition. The reality is that some people can be cruel deliberately or unintentionally, but that does not excuse being rude. Yet, that does not mean we should not ask others questions about their lives.

Are there better ways to empathise with others who may look or sound different than you?

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. - Psalm 139: 14

A friend that sticks closer than a brother

Throughout life we all have friends that come and go, but there are some who stick around through thick and thin. Regardless of age, we all need friends to help us through the good and bad stages of life on earth. Have you thought about what kind of friend you are to others?

Who is that friend that has always been there for you and how is your relationship?

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. - Proverbs 18:24



Curtain closes: Final question

Standing up for what is right

Sometimes we need to take a stand for what is right or at least defend someone who has been wronged. This can be hard and it may cause difficulties in relationships, but that does not make it wrong. Are you willing to offer help or mercy to someone who is having a hard time?

Has there been someone who has stepped in for you to help you in your life? Why?

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed." - Psalm 82:3