**Part One: August Pages 1-80**

**Chapter 1: “Ordinary”**

1. What do you think Auggie means by “the only reason I’m not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way.”?

2. What are you thinking Auggie looks like? Explain.

**Chapter 2: “Why I Didn’t Go To School”**

1. How does Auggie feel about starting fifth grade at a real school? Why?

2. Why has Auggie been homeschooled?

**Chapter 3: “How I Came to Life”**

1. The story of Auggie’s birth is obviously a traumatic one. How does Auggie’s mother turn the trauma into comedy?

2. What do you think and feel hearing that the doctor fainted after delivering Auggie?

3. What does Auggie’s mom remember most about seeing Auggie for the first time?

4. Why do you think the author adds, “Mom is beautiful. Dad is handsome. Via is pretty. In case you were wondering.

**Chapter 4: “Christopher’s House”**

1. Why do you think Auggie sat in his mom’s lap “like a baby” and made his voice sound a little babyish when telling her he didn’t want to go to the school?

2. Auggie thinks, “I wanted Dad to win the fight (to not go to school). Though part of me knew Mom was right.” What do you think he means by this? Explain.

**Chapter 5: “Driving”**

1. What is a lamb to the slaughter?

2. How do Auggie’s parents use humor to make Auggie’s situation easier?

**Chapter 6: “Paging Mr. Tushman”**

1. When Auggie met Mr. Tushman he looked right at Auggie. He made a point to kneel down so that Auggie had to look into his face. Why do you think he did this? Explain.

**Chapter 7: “Nice Mrs. Garcia”**

1. When Mrs. Garcia was talking to Auggie he said she had a “shiny smile,” but when she was talking with Auggie’s mom her smile changed. Auggie felt, “I guess I liked Mrs. Garcia when she wasn’t wearing her shiny smile.” What do you think he meant by this?

**Chapter 8: “Jack, Will, Julian, and Charlotte”**

1. What does Auggie mean by little kids saying things that hurt your feelings but not knowing what they’re saying as opposed to big kids knowing?

2. Why do you think Auggie went along for the school tour after seeing his mom’s face even though he was angry?

**Chapter 9: “The Grand Tour”**

1. Charlotte seems to be handling the tour more smoothly than the boys. Why do you think it is easier for her? Explain your answer.

2. Do you think Auggie asking about Homeroom was a dumb question? Why or why not?

**Chapter 10: “The Performance Space”**

1. Mr. Tushman told Auggie not to worry because Charlotte, Julian, and Jack Will were “nice kids, I promise.” After reading this chapter, do you agree with him? Explain.

2. What does Jack Will mean by, “But, dude, you’re gonna have to talk.”

3. Do you think Auggie’s going to have future problems with Julian? Explain.

**Chapter 11: “The Deal”**

1. The chapter ends with, “I didn’t look at them – or look up at all – until I left the building.” How do you think Auggie is feeling? Do you think he will agree to go to the school after the visit? Explain.

**Chapter 12: “Home”**

1. At home, Auggie says he feels “very sad and a tiny bit happy at the exact same time.” What do you think he means by this? Explain.

2. Have you ever had an experience with a kid like Julian, “the kind of kid who’s one way in front of grown-ups and another way in front of kids.”? Explain.

3. Are you surprised with Auggie’s decision? Explain your reaction.

**Chapter 13: “First Day Jitters”**

1. Auggie admits he sticks close to home where he knows everyone and they know him. Why do you think he does this? Explain.

2. Auggie’s dad feels he’s turning into “quite the strong man.” After reading this chapter, do you think you would be able to be as strong as Auggie and walk into that school? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 14: “Looks”**

1. How did Charlotte, Jack, and Julian treat Auggie when they saw him I homeroom?

2. How was Ms. Petosa’s smile different than Mrs. Garcia’s?

**Chapter 15: “Around the Room”**

1. How do you think Auggie is feeling during this “Around the Room” activity? Explain.

2. How do you feel when teachers do these types of “get to know you” activities like Ms. Petosa did? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 16: “Lamb to the Slaughter”**

1. How did Julian publicly embarrass Auggie in front of the class without Ms. Petosa even realizing it?

**Chapter 17: “Choose Kind”**

1. Mr. Browne’s September Precept is “When Given the Choice between Being Right or Being Kind, Choose Kind.” How do you think this theme will play into this story? Explain.

2. At the end of this chapter, why do you thin Auggie says “I suddenly realized that I was going to like school. No matter what.”? Explain.

**Chapter 18: “Lunch”**

1. What were the two reasons that made lunch time so stressful for Auggie?

**Chapter 19: “The Summer Table”**

1. Why is the chapter titled “The Summer Table”?

2. How do you think Auggie felt after lunch? Explain.

**Chapter 20: “One to Ten”**

1. After school Auggie feels “I honestly don’t know why I was kind of mad at mom, but I was.” Why do you think he was feeling this way?

2. What do you think Auggie’s mom’s reaction to the Beauty and the Beast comment was? Explain.

**Chapter 21: “Padawan”**

1. Why do you think Auggie cut off his braid?

2. Why do you think Auggie started to cry when he did? Explain.

**Chapter 22: “Wake Me Up When September Ends”**

1. Do you think you would be as understanding about the weird looks and stares as Auggie? Explain your feelings.

2. What was the time frame for the kids in Auggie’s class to get used to Auggie’s face? How about the kids in his grade? In his school? Do these time lengths surprise you? Explain.

**Chapter 23: “Jack Will”**

1. Why do you think it helps Auggie to have a friend like Jack? Why doesn’t the questions he asks hurt Auggie’s feelings? Explain.

**Chapter 24: “Mr. Browne’s October Precept”**

1. How could the October Precept and the saying “Actions speak louder than words,” be compared?

**Chapter 25: “Apples”**

1. Do you think Auggie had an honest turn out for his party? Explain your feelings.

2. What did Auggie’s mom mean by “I guess the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree” when she talked about Julian’s mom not RSVPing to the party?

**Chapter 26: “Halloween”**

1. Do you think Auggie’s facial abnormalities have helped him be a better friend to people like Summer? Explain.

**Chapter 27: “School Pictures”**

1. Do you think Auggie should have been allowed to skip the class picture? Explain your reasoning.

**Chapter 28: “The Cheese Touch”**

1. How does Auggie feel he is the “old moldy cheese”?

**Chapter 29: “Costumes”**

1. Why do you think Auggie changed costumes at the last minute? Explain.

**Chapter 30: “The Bleeding Scream”**

1. What did Auggie hear that upset him so much?

2. Do you think Auggie was more upset by what he heard or by who said it? Explain.

**Chapter 31: “Names”**

1. Do you think Auggie will ever go back to school again? Explain your feelings.

**Part Two: Via Pages 81-117**

**Chapter 32: “A Tour of the Galaxy”**

1. What does Via mean by “August is the sun.”?

2. Do you feel badly for Via having to do all the things she’s done on her own? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 33: “Before August”**

1. Why don’t you think that three year old Via had a bad reaction to Auggie when he was born as others did, like the doctor and some of the nurses?

**Chapter 34: “Seeing August”**

1. What made Via feel terribly guilty when she returned from staying with her grandmother?

2. Via’s grandmother called her menina querida” and said “Via? Tu es meu tudo.” What does that mean?

3. What does Via mean by “I let knowing I was Gran’s favorite cover me like a blanket”?

**Chapter 35: “August through the Peephole”**

1. Up to this point of the book we’ve never really been told exactly what Auggie looks like. How do you feel after reading Via’s description of Auggie’s face?

2. What do you think Auggie sees when he looks into the mirror?

3. Do you agree with Via that maybe the family shouldn’t have made Auggie feel so “normal”? Explain.

**Chapter 36: “High School”**

1. Do you think Via is defined as “the sister of the kid who has a birth defect,” or do you think she’s being too sensitive? Explain you reasoning.

**Chapter 37: “Major Tom”**

1. Why do you think Ella, and especially Miranda, changed so much over the summer and didn’t include Via in their talks?

**Chapter 38: “After School”**

1. Via seems to be getting angry at people even before they have a chance to do wrong by her, avoiding driving home with Miranda, yelling at her mom after school, grabbing Auggie’s video game out of his hands, etc. Why do you think she’s acting out in this way to almost punish others before they can hurt her? Explain.

**Chapter 39: “The Padawan Bites the Dust”**

1. Why do you think it bothered Via so much that Auggie cut off his braid?

**Chapter 40: “Apparition at the Door”**

1. Why do you think Auggie’s mom was standing outside the door like she was?

**Chapter 41: “Breakfast”**

1. Why do you think the fact that Via’s reading *War and Peace* makes her father think she’s old enough to ride the subway home by herself? Explain.

**Chapter 42: “Genetics”**

1. What discovery was made in the genetic counseling about Auggie’s parents and Via?

**Chapter 43: “The Punnett Square”**

1. What does Via mean by there are “countless babies who’ll never be born, like mine.”?

**Chapter 44: “Out with the Old”**

1. Do you think joining in with this new crowd will be good for Via or will it present problems? Explain.

**Chapter 45: “October 31”**

1. Via says, “And no, I won’t mention the fact that Mom has never made any of my costumes, because it really has no bearing on anything at all,” yet really she does mention it. Why do you think the author added that look into Via’s mind? What does it say about Via?

2. “Mom assumed the “August’s mom” role again. “Via’s mom,” who had come out for a little while, was put away. I understood though.” Do you feel like Via really did understand, or is she masking her feelings? Explain.

**Chapter 46: “Trick or Treat”**

1. How do you think it made Via feel to hear what happened to Auggie at school? Explain.

2. Why do you thin Auggie told Via what happened at school instead of his mom and dad? Explain.

**Chapter 47: “Time to Think”**

1. There are so many ways that Auggie and Via are different, but there are also several ways that they are alike. Name some things that they have in common.

**Part Three: Summer Pages 118-132**

**Chapter 48: “Weird Kids”**

1. Do you think it’s a big deal that Summer went and sat with Auggie at lunch? Would you have had the courage to do what she did? Explain.

**Chapter 49: “The Plague”**

1. How do you “Catch the Plague”?

2. Why does Summer like to hang out with Auggie?

**Chapter 50: “The Halloween Party”**

1. Why do you think Summer hid in the bathroom until her mom could pick her up? Do you think this signals her choice, or just that she feels uncomfortable?

**Chapter 51: “November”**

1. Do you think Auggie was justified in accusing Summer like he did? How do you think it made her feel to hear the Jack story? Explain.

**Chapter 52: “Warning: This Kid is Rated R”**

1. What is one of the things Summer likes most about Auggie?

**Chapter 53: “The Egyptian Tomb”**

1. Do you think summer should have told Jack what she did? Explain.

2. Do you think Jack is sincere in being bummed that Auggie is mad at him? Explain.

**Part 4: Jack Pages 133-185**

**Chapter 54: “The Call”**

1. What was Jack’s first reaction to being asked to help at the school with Auggie? Why?

**Chapter 55: “Carvel”**

1. Why does Jack try and remember what Veronica said, “sometimes you don’t have to mean to hurt someone to hurt someone,” whenever he sees Auggie in the neighborhood?

**Chapter 56: “Why I Changed My Mind”**

1. Why *did* Jack change his mind?

**Chapter 57: “Four Things”**

1. What are the four things Jack discovered about Auggie?

**Chapter 58: “Ex-Friends”**

1. Why is jack upset about being free to hang out with the popular group?

**Chapter 59: “Snow”**

1. Why do you think Jack described his feelings inside as being like the slushy day outside?

2. Why do you think Jack didn’t tell Auggie about *Lightning*? Explain.

**Chapter 60: “Fortune Favors the Bold”**

1. What do you think Auggie wrote about for the December Precept?

**Chapter 61: “Private School”**

1. Where did Jack get his “new” sled?

**Chapter 62: “In Science”**

1. What did Jack learn in Science class?

**Chapter 63: “Partners”**

1. What did Jack do to Julian? Do you think there was more reasons for it other than just what Julian said? Explain.

**Chapter 64: “Detention”**

1. Do you think if Jack had told Mr. Tushman the truth it would have made things worse? Explain your reasoning.

**Chapter 65: “Season’s Greetings”**

1. Are you surprised to read about Julian’s mom and her Photoshopped picture? Explain your feelings.

2. What do you think Jack’s mom’s reaction is to his explanation?

**Chapter 66: “Letters, Emails, Facebook, Texts”**

1. Would you be able to forgive Jack if you were Auggie? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 67: “Back from Winter Break”**

1. Why do you think everyone is dissing Jack? Do you really think everyone is on Julian’s side? Explain.

**Chapter 68: “The War”**

1. What is Julian doing for “Jack’s own good”?

**Chapter 69: “Switching Tables”**

1. How did Summer reach out to help Jack?

**Chapter 70: “Why I Didn’t Sit with Auggie the First Day of School”**

1. Do you think Jack was being mean or selfish on the first day of school when he purposely sat away from Auggie even though he sat next to him in every other class? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 71: “Sides”**

1. Auggie often makes jokes about his looks and Summer and jack seem to really appreciate this about him. Do you think it helps or hurts Auggie to joke about himself like this? Explain your reasoning.

**Chapter 72: “August’s House”**

1. How is Jack feeling in the presence of all the things Auggie has in his room, the X-Box, computer, Star Wars stuff, even his dog? How is this ironic?

**Chapter 73: “The Boyfriend”**

1. Why do you think Auggie and Jack were laughing so much over Via’s boyfriend?

**Part Five: Justin Pages 186-204**

**Chapter 74: “Olivia’s Brother”**

1. Do you believe Justin, that he’s okay with Auggie? Explain.

**Chapter 75: “Valentine’s Day”**

1. How does Justin compare himself to Daisy the dog?

**Chapter 76: “Our Town”**

1. Do you think Via would intentionally blow an audition not to get a part? Explain your reasoning.

**Chapter 77: “Ladybug”**

1. What do you think Justin’s wish was? Olivia’s?

**Chapter 78: “The Bus Stop”**

1. Do you think it made Jack feel better to tell Justin about the war at school? Explain.

2. Do you think Justin’s threat to Julian, Miles, and Henry will help or hurt Jack? Explain.

**Chapter 79: “Rehearsal”**

1. What do you think Miranda is trying to accomplish by asking Justin if “he’s okay about Auggie”?

**Chapter 80: “Bird”**

1. Why hasn’t Via told her family about the play?

2. How does Justin feel Via is like a bird?

**Chapter 81: “The Universe”**

1. How does Justin feel the universe has taken care of Auggie?

**Part Six: August Pages 205-234**

**Chapter 82: “North Pole”**

1. How is Auggie like the North Pole?

**Chapter 83: “The Auggie Doll”**

1. What “ridiculous rumor” started a change in the war?

2. Was the rumor so ridiculous? Explain.

3. How did Auggie again use humor to gain friends?

**Chapter 84: “Lobot”**

1. With all of Auggie’s facial abnormalities does it surprise you that the hearing aids bother him so much? Why do think this is?

2. What do you think the author mean by “And then he turned them on.”

**Chapter 85: “Hearing Brightly”**

1. How did the kids at school react to Auggie’s hearing aids?

**Part Seven: Miranda Pages 235-248**

**Chapter 86: “Via’s Secret”**

1. What do you think Auggie’s mom’s answer was to Via’s comment?

**Chapter 87: “My Cave”**

1. What do you think Via will say to Auggie since we know he figured out the truth about the play?

**Chapter 88: “Goodbye”**

1. “Auggie and Via hugged very, very tight and creid a million tear.” Do you think they’ll be able to handle what happens? Explain.

**Chapter 89: “Daisy’s Toys”**

1. Why do you think Auggie’s parents didn’t tell Auggie that Daisy was sick?

2. Why don’t you think Auggie went to his dad when he found him crying? Explain.

**Chapter 90: “Heaven”**

1. Daisy was the one and only soul who never ever saw a flaw in Auggie’s face. How do you think Auggie will be able to cope with her being gone? Explain.

**Chapter 91: “Understudy”**

1. Why do you think Via changed her mind about having Auggie come to the play?

**Chapter 92: “The Ending”**

1. Auggie feels, “I think there should be a rule that everyone in the world should get a standing ovation at least once in their lives.” Do you agree with Auggie? Why? Do you think this will ever happen for Auggie? Why or why not? Explain.

**Chapter 93: “Camp Lies”**

1. What does Miranda mean that these girls were “at the top of the food chain”?

2. Why do you think Miranda was ashamed to face Via after returning home from camp?

**Chapter 94: “School”**

1. Why do you think it annoyed Miranda that she and Ella had changed and Via had not?

2. Why do you think Miranda lied to Mr. D. about “her brother being deformed” so he’d change the play from *The Elephant Man*?

**Chapter 95: “What I Miss Most”**

1. How did being at Via’s house make Miranda feel?

**Chapter 96: “Extraordinary but No One There to See”**

1. Why do you think Miranda got “sick” on opening night?

**Chapter 97: “The Performance”**

1. Do you think Miranda regretted her decision? Why or why not?

**Chapter 98: “After the Show”**

1. Why do you think Miranda felt so happy to be with Via’s family again? Explain.

2. Do you think things will change between Via and Miranda? Explain.

**Part Eight: August Pages 249-310**

**Chapter 99: “The Fifth-Grade Nature Retreat”**

1. Why is Auggie both nervous and excited to go on the retreat?

**Chapter 100: “Known For”**

1. Auggie says everyone at this age is “known” for something. What do you thin you are known for? Are you happy with this? Explain why or why not.

**Chapter 101: “Packing”**

1. How does Auggie’s mom mean he’s grown up this year?

**Chapter 102: “Daybreak”**

1. Do you think Auggie really saw Daisy’s ghost? Explain.

2. Why do you think Auggie left Baboo behind for his mom?

**Chapter 103: “Day One”**

1. How did Auggie’s first day go?

**Chapter 104: “Fairgrounds”**

1. Things are going great for Auggie on the retreat with his classmates. Do you think that there may be any problems now that other schools start to arrive? Explain.

**Chapter 105: “Be Kind to Nature”**

1. Do you foresee a problem with the rude kids that are booing and throwing cans? What do you think might happen?

**Chapter 106: “The Woods are Alive”**

1. Why do you think the woods smelled like firecrackers?

**Chapter 107: “Aliens”**

1. Why do you think Amos, Miles, and Henry came back to help Jack and Auggie?

**Chapter 108: “Voice in the Dark”**

1. Why do you think it was the loss of the hearing aids that made Auggie cry?

2. Do you think Amos, Miles, and Henry would have done what they did if Julian had been on the trip? Explain.

**Chapter 109: “The Emperor’s Guard”**

1. How do you think it feels to Auggie to have his own “emperor’s guard”?

**Chapter 110: “Sleep”**

1. Why do you think Auggie chooses not to tell Mr. Tushman and the camp director what the troublemaker looked like? Do you agree with Auggie’s decision? Why or why not?

**Chapter 111: “Aftermath”**

1. Do you think the experience at the nature retreat will change things with the “war” at school? Explain.

**Chapter 112: “Home”**

1. Auggie’s mom told him, “There are always going to be jerks in the world, Auggie, but I really believe, and Daddy too, that there are more good people on this earth than bad people, and the good people watch out for and take care of each other.” Do you agree? Explain. Use examples from your life to support your answer.

**Chapter 113: “Bear”**

1. Do you think Bear will be good for Auggie and his family or is it too soon after Daisy’s death? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 114: “The Shift”**

1. How did things shift at school?

**Chapter 115: “Ducks”**

1. What do you think Mr. Tushman thought the symbolism was for Auggie’s choice of a duck for a self-portrait meant?

**Chapter 116: “The Last Precept”**

1. Do you think Mr. Browne gets a lot of postcards back from students? Would you remember to send one? Why or why not?

**Chapter 117: “The Drop-Off”**

1. What does it symbolize that Auggie is wearing his hair shorter than he ever has?

2. Do you agree with what Auggie’s dad did with the astronaut helmet? Was it best for Auggie? Explain.

**Chapter 118: “Take Your Seats, Everyone”**

1. It seems Jack’s got a crush on Summer, everyone’s growing up. How hard do you think things will get for Auggie when the kids his age really start dating? Explain your feelings.

**Chapter 119: “A Simple Thing”**

1. In Mr. Tushman’s speech he said, “Wherever you are, whenever you can, if you will try to act a little kinder than is necessary-the world really would be a better place.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Is it really possible for such a small thing to make such a big impact? Explain.

**Chapter 120: “Awards”**

1. Why do you think Mr. Tushman’s voice kept cracking during his speech announcing the award winner?

2. How do you think Auggie felt at the end of this chapter? What do you think is going through his mind? Explain.

**Chapter 121: “Floating”**

1. Auggie is surprised and honored to be chosen for the award. Thousands of thoughts go through his head as he walks to the front of the auditorium and faces the crowd. What is one major thought/fear that does NOT cross his mind?

2. What do you think Julian and his familiar are feeling during Mr. Tushman’s speech and while Auggie is getting this reaction from the crowd while accepting his award? Explain.

**Chapter 122: “Pictures”**

1. How does the picture taking scene show how much the kids have changed when you compare to recess and “Plague” at the beginning of the year? Explain.

**Chapter 123: “The Walk Home”**

1. Auggie’s mom thanks him for “everything you’ve given us. You really are a wonder, Auggie.” What do you think she means by this? Explain.