



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN R.J.PALACIO'S *WONDER*

Ms. M.V.Aarthi,
Post Graduate
Tirupur, Tamilnadu

Abstract : The novel *Wonder* is a fictional story written about a ten year old boy born with a severe facial deformity. This novel talks about how the society sees or treats the people who are appeared to be physically different. The protagonist has suffered of bullied, ignored and being stared at because due to his medical condition. This novel also gives an insight into how much other people's behavior has an influence on other's life. It talks ultimately about kindness, compassion, empathy and friendship.

In the novel, the main character, experiences a significant personality development as he navigates through the challenges of starting school. Throughout the novel, Auggie's experiences lead him to develop a more resilient and confident personality, which allows him to build meaningful relationships with others and to face the world with greater courage and compassion. The novel thus emphasizes the importance of empathy, kindness, and acceptance in shaping one's personality and character.

Keywords: *Wonder, personality development, isolation, kindness, compassion*

INTRODUCTION

The Novel *Wonder* by R.J.Palacio was published in 2012. It deals with the story of a ten year old boy named August Pullman with severe facial deformity. He was homeschooled till he turned ten and was sent to middle school where he was stared at, avoided and bullied for his facial disorder. The story brings out all the hurdles that Auggie faced from his first day of his school until his graduation. The author very realistically depicts how the protagonist got bullied and is socially isolated for being physically different from others. The novel is written in different perspectives with slightly different tones, and revolves around several characters and their dynamic construction and deconstruction of integrative characteristics. The narration changes from one character to another which shows the different perspectives of a story and it reveals the identity of each side to understand how the protagonist's community struggles to learn compassion and empathy.

Overall, "*Wonder*" is a beautiful portrayal of how people can grow and develop through their experiences and learning to be more compassionate, empathetic and understanding of others.

PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN *WONDER*

The novel explores the various aspects of personality development. It gives a progress of how the society and its people have an impact on the influence of one's character. There are certain elements that are presented in the novel are connected to the development of the personality of the characters. The novel focuses on the journey of the protagonist August Pullman as he starts school for the first time and tries to fit in with his peers.

In the beginning of the story, August presents himself to be most reserved, shy and self-conscious about his appearance. He introduces himself as

"I won't describe what look like. Whatever you're thinking' it's probably worse."

The reason behind this mindset of August Pullman is because of the society who treats him like an outcaste. He describes it as, *"I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride. I play. 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."

This made him to avoid social situation and keeps to himself. But as he starts school and meets new people he begins to open up. One of the notable developments in his behavior is his increased self-confidence which he stood up for himself and asserts his own identity. He also became more empathetic and understanding of other people own struggles and insecurities. He understood the world doesn't revolve only around him.

The novel also brings out the people's view on outward appearance that made Auggie to learn to see beyond their outward appearances and to appreciate their inner qualities. Kindness is one of the key theme of the novel that it shows how the small acts of kindness can have a big impact on people's lives.

*"when given the choice between being right or being kind.
Choose kind"*

CONCLUSION

Wonder is a heart warming story that teaches readers the importance of empathy, kindness, and self-confidence. August's journey shows that anyone can overcome their insecurities and grow into a better person, given the right support and mindset. His journey serves as a compelling example of the transformative power of empathy, self-acceptance, and kindness. Auggie's growth in self-confidence is just one example to learn to overcome their fears and insecurities and become more fully themselves.

Through his experiences in the book, the readers can also learn to be more comfortable in their own skin and to assert their own identity, which ultimately helps to navigate the challenges of in life with greater resilience and grace.

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