

FOND DU LAC READS

Every October, Fond du Lac Reads encourages the community to read a certain book and hosts events to foster discussion and understanding of themes in that year's title.

COMING IN 2018

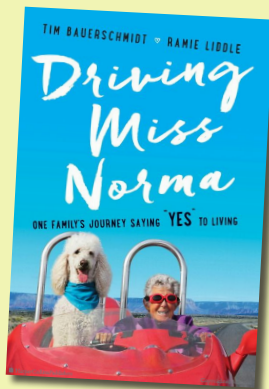
Driving Miss Norma:

One Family's Journey Saying Yes to Living

by Tim Bauerschmidt and Ramie Liddle

When diagnosed with uterine cancer, Norma – newly widowed after nearly 70 years of marriage – told the doctor, “I’m 90 years old. I’m hitting the road.” And so Miss Norma took off on an U.S. odyssey in a 36-foot motor home with her retired son Tim, his wife Ramie, and their dog Ringo. State by state, new adventure by new adventure, they meet countless people from all walks of life. *Driving Miss Norma* is the charming, joyous portrayal of a transformative journey of living life on your own terms that shows it’s never too late to begin an adventure, inspire hope or become a trailblazer.

~ Goodreads



Past Fond du Lac Reads books

- 2016 *Struck By Genius* by Jason Padgett
- 2015 *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- 2014 *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline
- 2013 *Thunder Dog* by Michael Hingson
- 2012 *Wingshooters* by Nina Revoyr
- 2011 *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
When Pride Still Mattered by David Maraniss
- 2010 *Dangerous Book for Boys* by Conn Iggulden
& *Daring Book for Girls* by Andrea J. Buchanan
- 2009 *Living a Country Year* by Jerry Apps
- 2008 *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- 2007 *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
- 2006 *Population 485* by Michael Perry
- 2005 *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Find *Wonder* events at
fdlpl.org, click Calendar

READERS' GUIDE FDL READS Wonder



A novel by R.J. Palacio

Auggie Pullman’s facial deformity was so severe, he couldn’t go to a mainstream school. But now he’s about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep. If you’ve ever been the new kid, you know how hard that can be. The thing is Auggie’s just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. Can he convince his new classmates that he’s just like them, despite appearances? This is a warm, uplifting story with realistic family interactions (flawed, but loving), lively school scenes and short chapters. *Wonder* is accessible to readers of all levels. ~ Goodreads

About the author

R.J. Palacio was inspired to write *Wonder* after her 3-year-old son cried after seeing a young girl with severe craniofacial difference. “It occurred to me that (the family) probably went through something like that dozens of times a day. Hundreds of times. What would that be like? What could I be teaching my children so they could understand how to respond better next time?”

FOND DU LAC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Further reading for *Wonder*

ADULTS

Autobiography of a Face by Lucy Grealy (362.1969 G797)

Be a Good in the World: 365 Days of Good Deeds, Inspired Ideas and Acts of Kindness by Brenda Knight (170.44 K743)

Dare to Be Kind: How Extraordinary Compassion Can Transform Our World by Lizzie Velasquez (177.7 Velasquez). Also the DVD **Brave Heart**.

Pay It Forward by Catherine Ryan Hyde (Adult fiction)

Sam: The Boy Behind the Mask by Tom Hallman (362.1975 H157)

Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Empathy by Emily Bazelon (302.343 B347)

Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-about-me World by Michele Borba (649.7 B644u)



TEENS

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli. A modern-day classic and bestseller that celebrates the power of individuality and personal expression.

Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt. Multiple themes of loss and recovery in a story teeming with distinctive, unusual characters and invaluable lessons about love, creativity and survival.

Every Soul a Star by Wendy Mass. An intricate and compelling story about strangers coming together, unlikely friendships and finding one's place in the universe.



KIDS

Absolutely Almost by Lisa Graff. An inspiring middle-grade novel about figuring out who you are and doing what you love.

Bubble by Stewart Foster. Uplifting novel about superheroes, super-nurses and the beauty you can find in hope.

Rules by Cynthia Lord. Humorous and heartwarming; about feeling different and finding acceptance.

El Deafo by Cece Belle (362.42 B413 2014). Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers!



OTHER TITLES BY R.J. PALACIO

365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne's Book of Precepts

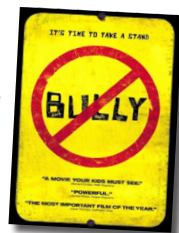
Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories

We're All Wonders

MOVIE

Bully (302.34 B876p)

Documentary that follows five kids and their families over the course of a school year, offering insights into different facets of America's bullying crisis. The stories include two families who have lost children to suicide and a 14-year-old girl in jail for bringing a gun on her school bus. An intimate and often shocking glimpse into homes, classrooms, cafeterias and principals' offices.



Wonder book discussion questions

1. Throughout *Wonder*, Auggie describes the way that many people react to seeing his face for the first time: by immediately looking away. Have you ever been in a situation where you have responded like this to seeing someone different? Having now read *Wonder*, how do you feel about this now?
2. How would you describe Auggie as a person in the first few chapters of the book? What about the final few chapters? Has he changed? Are there any experiences or episodes during the story that you think had a particular effect on him? If so, how?
3. Auggie's parents bring Auggie around to the idea of attending school by joking with him about Mr. Tushman's name and telling him about their old college professor, Bobbie Butt. To what extent is humor used as a tool throughout *Wonder* to diffuse difficult or tense situations or to convey a part of the story that would otherwise be depressing or sad? Look at the chapter, *How I Came To Life*.
4. What did you think of Via as a character? Did you empathize with her? Why do you think Via was so angry to learn that Auggie cut off his Padawan braid? Do you think Via's own attitude toward her brother changes throughout the story?
5. Look at the emails between Mr. Tushman, Julian's parents and Jack's parents in the chapter *Letters, Emails, Facebook, Texts*. Up to this point in the story we have seen how the children at Auggie's school have reacted to him. Is Mrs. Albans' attitude toward Auggie different? What do you make of her statement that Auggie is handicapped? Do you think she is correct in saying that asking "ordinary" children, such as Julian, to befriend Auggie places a burden on them?
6. The author was inspired to write *Wonder* after an experience at a local ice cream parlor, very similar to the scene described in the chapter *Carvel*, where Jack sees Auggie for the first time. In this scene, Jack's babysitter Veronica chooses to get up and quickly walk Jack and his little brother Jamie away from Auggie, rather than risk Jamie saying something rude or hurtful. What would you have done, if put in that position?

Source: rjpalacio.com

Author R.J. Palacio said, "You all have the power to change lives. Remember the power of words, and think about how you want to be remembered."

To that end, she started the Choose Kind Pledge (choosekind.tumblr.com).

FDL Public Library celebrates *Wonder* with Choose Kind stickers, Kindness Rocks, a Kindness Wall and other fun activities through October.

