

Character Counts

Are you ready to meet Auggie Pullman? That's the tagline for the upcoming film, *Wonder*, about to hit big screens across America on November 17.

Did you know that you don't have to wait for the film release to meet this inspirational character? *Wonder* is a book that is currently in the children's section of the Library and a favorite of many of our island's young readers.

Wonder is among a number of today's popular films that have been adapted from novels. *Wonder* was published in 2012 and written by first-time author R.J. Palacio. The book tells the story of a 5th grade boy named Auggie who was born with a facial disfigurement. Auggie decides he wants to attend school after enduring multiple surgeries and being homeschooled for years. Determined to make new friends and be a normal student, Auggie soon realizes that life among lockers and backpacks is much tougher than he imagined. He becomes the target of bullying and is challenged in ways that no child, with or without a physical condition, should have to endure.

Wonder went on to become a New York Times Best Seller and has won numerous accolades, including Washington's Sasquatch Children's Choice Award in 2015. *Wonder* is also the inspiration behind the Choose Kind initiative to promote compassion and empathy in our nation's classrooms. More information about Choose Kind, *Wonder*, and the author of the story can be found at choosekind.com.

I'm happy to report that many of our island children have read or have listened to the story of Auggie Pullman. They know and love the character. They also voted *Wonder* as their favorite book in 2015. Don't wait for the movie release to learn about Auggie and Choosing Kind. Stop by the Library today to meet this endearing literary character. He's one memorable boy I bet you'll never forget.

Happy Reading!

-Melina Lagios, Youth Services Manager