

Wonder Comprehension

Wonder p. 134-152

Part A

1. p. 136 What was Jack's first reaction on seeing August?

2. p. 139 Mom says that Jack has a problem with everyone these days. Can you give three examples?

3. p. 140 Do you think Jamie was being serious or being silly when he was talking about August? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

4. p. 142 Jack says that August is cool, funny, nice and smart. Choose two of these qualities and find examples in the book where August shows these qualities (not on page 142!). You can copy down sentences or describe what August does.

5. p. 144 Why do you think Jack is being so negative about Summer?

6. p. 149-150 How do you think Jack felt when Julian and Miles were talking about Skeleton Hill and the old sled?

7. p. 152 Explain why Jack wants to puke at the end of the page.

Part B

1. On page 135, why is Jack so reluctant to help August out?

2. On page 136, Jack recounts first seeing August and he mentions August's sister's reaction. Look back to page 3 and 85. What links these three pages and why do you think the author has made this link?

3. p. 139 Compare Jack's reaction to August, Julian and Charlotte on this page with the scene on pages 24-26. What does p. 139 add to our reading of the earlier pages?

4. p. 141 In the last paragraph, Jack is like you, the reader of this book, Wonder. How so?

5. Find example words and phrases on pages 144 and 145 which the author has used to make it seem as if Jack is talking to himself in his mind.

6. Compare pages 146-147 and pages 149-150. How is Jack's idea of a good time different to Julian and Miles'?

Wonder Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. p. 136 What was Jack's first reaction on seeing August?

He said, 'Uhh!' and was scared. He thought it was someone wearing a zombie mask.

2. p. 139 Mom says that Jack has a problem with everyone these days. Can you give three examples?

Jack called August 'deformed', he says 'ugh' when Julian is mentioned, and calls Charlotte a 'Goody Two-Shoes'.

3. p. 140 Do you think Jamie was being serious or being silly when he was talking about August? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Example answer: I think Jamie was being a bit of both. He started out talking about a time when he was genuinely scared and he was whining. But at the end, he was running around the kitchen being silly. He was also a bit cheeky at the end by asking what sympathetic meant.

4. p. 142 Jack says that August is cool, funny, nice and smart. Choose two of these qualities and find examples in the book where August shows these qualities (not on page 142!). You can copy down sentences or describe what August does.

Various answers possible. Example must match the quality.

5. p. 144 Why do you think Jack is being so negative about Summer?

Example answer: Jack is probably jealous of August and Summer's relationship. Previously he had been August's best friend but now August is blanking him. He's upset. Also, he is probably annoyed that Summer didn't give him a straight answer to the question he asked about August.

6. p. 149-150 How do you think Jack felt when Julian and Miles were talking about Skeleton Hill and the old sled?

Example answer: Jack was probably embarrassed that he had been so enthusiastic about the Skeleton Hill and the other boys mocked the hill. He was also probably embarrassed that Julian corrected him about why it was so called. Jack would have been upset about the way they talked about the old sled because he loved it, had put a lot of work on it and had a great time with his family. He probably thought they were 'jerks'!

7. p. 152 Explain why Jack wants to puke at the end of the page.

Example answer: Jack realises that August heard him saying the horrible things about him to Julian and the other boys. He realises now why August hasn't been speaking to him. He feels dreadful about what he's done.

Part B

1. On page 135, why is Jack so reluctant to help August out?

Jack knows who August is because he's seen him around town and he doesn't want to be associated with him.

2. On page 136, Jack recounts first seeing August and he mentions August's sister's reaction. Look back to page 3 and 85. What links these three pages and why do you think the author has made this link?

Example answer: Page 3 and page 85 show us Via's reaction to people being rude to August. On the three pages, we see all sides of the situation – August's, Via's and Jack's perspective. So, the different pages let us have a much wider view of the situation than just a single character's. It's like the author is showing us that there are lots of sides to a story.

3. p. 139 Compare Jack's reaction to August, Julian and Charlotte on this page with the scene on pages 24-26. What does p. 139 add to our reading of the earlier pages?

Example answer: When we read p24-26, we didn't know what the relationship was like between Jack and the others. On this page, we're finding out what was in Jack's head as he was in the scene. It helps us to put ourselves into his shoes or see things from his perspective.

4. p. 141 In the last paragraph, Jack is like you, the reader of this book, Wonder. How so?

Example answer: Jack is seeing how his little brother behaves badly towards August. In the book, as readers, we have seen lots of examples of people behaving badly to him. It's made him think about how he will treat August better in future; hopefully reading the book and seeing people's reactions to August, it has made us think about how we ourselves treat people.

5. Find example words and phrases on pages 144 and 145 which the author has used to make it seem as if Jack is talking to himself in his mind.

Various examples, including: What the heck? A bit out there. You know, I've got plenty of other friends. [Examples of 10 year-old speech and casual conversational phrases].

6. Compare pages 146-147 and pages 149-150. How is Jack's idea of a good time different to Julian and Miles'?

Example answer: Jack enjoys simple things like the sensation of quiet and whiteness – he's childlike. He's also practical – he enjoys fixing the sled up. He spent all day with his dad and brother at the park, just sledding and enjoying himself in a natural and genuine way. For Julian and Miles, however, everything must be the best – Julian goes on holiday to an exotic place like Paris (and says he hates it), he has an expensive sled, and Skeleton Hill isn't good enough for him. Miles is similar: he calls the sled that Jack fixed up and is proud of a piece of junk. These boys have a good time by dissing everyone else.

7. p. 152 Look up images of 'Home Alone' and the painting, 'The Scream'. Explain how these images match Jack's feeling at the end of the page.

Example answer: All the images are similar. They all represent horror or panic or agony. And that's how Jack feels when he realises what he's done and how he's insulted August.

★ Challenge Task ★

Answers will vary.