

Wonder Comprehension

Wonder p. 228-248

Part A

1. Why do you think Via hugged August before she went out to the play on p. 228?

2. August was happy to be called Auggie Doggie earlier on in the book. Why is he not now on p. 229?

3. p. 230 Why does August like the play? Does his reason remind you of a detail earlier in the chapter?

4. August says he doesn't want to give the ending to the play away to us, but he does! How do you think the play ends? And why do you think Mom and Via are crying?

5. On p.233, Justin pulls Mr Davenport away to meet his mom. Why? What does this tell you about Justin and about Mr D.?

6. Why does Miranda call August Major Tom? (Clue on p.93 and 201)

7. On p. 237, Miranda mentions 'bungalow 32'. What does this remind you of earlier in the book?

8. On p. 244, was Miranda sick? Can you explain?

Wonder Comprehension

Wonder p. 228-248

Part B

1. Refer to earlier in the book on p. 217-218 and p. 222 to explain why the line 'Via brought home three tickets to her school play...' on p. 228 is significant. What events have added to the significance?

2. p. 229 Why does the author mention Miranda's parents at this point? There's an obvious answer and harder answer about the structure of the text! (Clue on p.236)

3. Why doesn't Mom recognise Via when she first comes on the stage? Why did the author introduce that detail earlier instead of on p. 230? *Once you have answered this, go back and add more detail to your answer to question 2.*

4. Compare p. 231-232 with p. 216. How are these scenes linked?

5. On p. 233-234, there are several quick changes of mood. Can you explain each by completing this table?

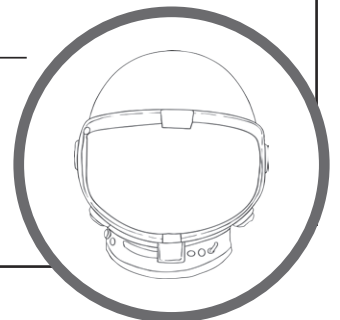
Mood	Explanation
<i>Worry</i>	<i>At the beginning of the page, August is worried about Miranda.</i>
	<i>Immediately, Mr Davenport comes up and praises Justin and Via.</i>
<i>Confusion</i>	
	<i>August calls out for his mum.</i>
<i>Relief</i>	

6. Why do you think Miranda plays the make-believe game on p. 236-237?

7. Mr Davenport doesn't come out of this section of the book well. Can you collect evidence from the text to show how the author paints him unsympathetically?

★ ★
★ Challenge Task ★

This section of the book (p. 228-248) is about forgiveness, reconciliation and growth. Do you agree? Explain your answer with references to aspects of the text.



Wonder Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. Why do you think Via hugged August before she went out to the play on p. 228?

Example answer: Via was sorry that she'd been ashamed of him earlier on and that she wasn't going to invite him. She realised that she'd upset him and wanted to make it better. She had also realised herself, after having some time to think, how proud she was of him and how much she loved him (particularly after Daisy died).

2. August was happy to be called Auggie Doggie earlier on in the book. Why is he not now on p. 229?

Example answer: August has grown up since the beginning of the book. He's been through experiences that have made him mature and he's no longer happy to be treated like a small child. He's embarrassed by it.

3. p. 230 Why does August like the play? Does his reason remind you of a detail earlier in the chapter?

Example answer: August likes the play because it's grown-up seeming and makes him feel smarter. It reminds me of the detail on p. 229 where he asked his dad not to call him Auggie Doggie because it made him feel childish.

4. August says he doesn't want to give the ending to the play away to us, but he does! How do you think the play ends? And why do you think Mom and Via are crying?

Example answer: At the end of the play, the main character, Emily, is dying – she's saying goodbye to everything. Mom and Via will be remembering Daisy dying and perhaps also thinking about how it could have been August that had died. It's an emotional time for Via and she's had a triumph playing the lead, so her emotions are bound to be up. And for Mom, she'll be proud of Via, particularly after their argument earlier in the book.

5. On p.233, Justin pulls Mr Davenport away to meet his mom. Why? What does this tell you about Justin and about Mr D.?

Example answer: Mr Davenport was going to make a scene about August's looks – he'd just frozen. Justin had seen this and he didn't want to spoil this moment for Via and her family with someone's poor reaction to August's looks interfering. This shows how much he cares for Via and the family and how sensitive he is to others' feelings.

6. Why does Miranda call August Major Tom? (Clue on p.93 and 201)

Miranda was closest to August at the time when he was wearing the spaceman's outfit (Major Tom is a spaceman in a famous song). She's still got a picture of him in her wallet with an astronaut helmet on (p. 201). She remembers those happy times with Via and her family, so uses that nickname for him.

7. On p. 237, Miranda mentions 'bungalow 32'. What does this remind you of earlier in the book?

Example answer: Bungalow 32 is like the popular kids in August's school who hang around together. They're Julian's and Savanna's groups, who control who can and cannot join their group and have rules about how people should look and behave. Bungalow 32 change the way Miranda looks and acts so that she fits it with them.

8. On p. 244, was Miranda sick? Can you explain?

Example answer: Miranda wasn't sick – it was a lie. She didn't go on stage because she wanted to do something for Via. She saw all her family (who Miranda loved) turning up in the audience and had no-one from her own family attending. She wanted to give Via and her family this experience because she loved them and wanted to do something special for them. It would also help her to become closer to Via – she missed her friendship.

Part B

1. Refer to earlier in the book to p. 217-218 and p. 222 to explain why the line 'Via brought home three tickets to her school play...' on p. 228 is significant. What events have added to the significance?

Example answer: Via wasn't going to tell anyone in the family about the play. She didn't want her new school friends to see August because she didn't want to go through the ordeal of other people's reactions to him. We find out in this line that she's changed her mind and bought tickets for the whole family.

August's reaction to finding out, Daisy's death, and the family's grief and togetherness at the death probably made Via rethink her priorities and understand how important her family are to her. On p. 222, Via hugs August tight – it could very easily have been August that the family would have been grieving for at many points in the past, and Via realises this.

2. p. 229 Why does the author mention Miranda's parents at this point? There's an obvious answer and harder answer about the structure of the text! (Clue on p.236)

Example obvious answer: Dad brings up Miranda's parents getting divorced because he's seen Miranda's picture. He's not seen her for a while and is probably surprised at how she's grown up. The divorce has happened since the families last met one another (remember, the parents tend to hang around with the children's friends' parents).

Example structural answer: The author is setting up the plot for later in the book where Miranda tells us about her family life. It's an example of 'Chekhov's gun' or 'set up'. The small detail earlier in the text introduces the reader to what's going to happen later, almost without them realising it. It's an example of cohesion.

3. Why doesn't Mom recognise Via when she first comes on the stage? Why did the author introduce that detail earlier instead of on p. 230?

Example answer: Mom doesn't recognise Via when she comes on stage because earlier we learnt that she's forgotten her glasses. It's another example of Chekhov's gun. The author introduces a small detail that seems irrelevant at the time, but it's important later because Mom needs to be surprised at it being Via rather than Miranda who comes on stage (and we need to be surprised too). If the author had introduced that Mom had forgotten her glasses at the same time, it would have seemed clumsy and obvious.

4. Compare p. 231-232 with p. 216. How are they linked?

Example answer: On p. 216, Via complains that her mother has left her alone her whole life and goes quiet – Mom would have been upset by this. On p. 231-232, Via has all the attention and August is almost forgotten. Mom is showing her pride in Via and is delighted at how well she's done. It's what Via wanted – her mum's attention.

5. On p. 233-234, there are several quick changes of mood. Can you explain each by completing this table?

Mood	Explanation
<i>Worry</i>	<i>At the beginning of the page, August is worried about Miranda.</i>
<i>Happy/excited</i>	<i>Immediately, Mr Davenport comes up and praises Justin and Via.</i>
<i>Embarrassment/awkwardness</i>	<i>Mr Davenport notices August's face.</i>
<i>Confusion</i>	<i>August gets lost in the crowd.</i>
<i>Panic</i>	<i>August calls out for his mum.</i>
<i>Relief</i>	<i>Someone picks him up.</i>
<i>Happiness</i>	<i>It's Miranda, who he hasn't seen in ages.</i>

6. Why do you think Miranda plays the make-believe game on p. 236-237?

Example answers: Miranda wants to impress the other girls about her life. She doesn't want to tell the sad story of her parents' divorce and how unhappy she feels, so she chooses the family she knows who love one another and she feels close to – Via's family. Miranda also probably wanted attention and sympathy for herself – we hear that her mother isn't someone she can be close to and that she's suffering after the divorce. Mentioning August would have been a quick way to do that. And she feels like a sister to Auggie. It's ironic that Auggie made her popular in camp!

7. Mr Davenport doesn't come out of this section of the book well. Can you collect evidence from the text to show how the author paints him unsympathetically?

Various pieces of evidence, including: Davenport's reaction to August on p. 233; his lack of sympathy for Miranda's 'illness'; his undisguised anger at her; his rudeness to her when he asks her why she's still here; Davenport's nerves whilst watching the play; and Miranda (who we're sympathetic to) calls him a wreck.

★ **Challenge Task** ★

Challenge! This section of the book (p. 228-248) is about forgiveness, reconciliation and growth. Do you agree? Explain your answer with references to aspects of the text.

A range of possible answers covering Via forgiving her mother for not giving her the attention she wanted; Miranda becoming reconciled with Via; the growth of the relationship between Via and her mum; Via's growth in maturity regarding others' reactions to August's face; August's desire to be treated in a more grown-up way; Miranda has grown up in that she values genuine people like Via's family rather than people like those in bungalow 32. Mr Davenport is an example of someone who doesn't forgive, in contrast to the main characters.