

Wonder

Developed through the FJC Experiential Education Virtual Internship, Sp2022

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SUMMARY:	Campers will watch the movie “Wonder” and discuss the messages around kindness, self-confidence, and judgement of people’s physical characteristics. In “Wonder”, we follow the story of Auggie Pullman, a young boy with Treacher Collins Syndrome who enrolls in school for the first time going into fifth grade, and pay close attention to how Auggie and his family balance the evolving, various dynamics as the story unfolds.
ABC GOALS:	<p>Affective: Participants will feel....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empathetic • Inspired • Present with all of their emotions • Hope <p>Behavior: Participants will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize everyone has their own struggles, even if not everyone’s’ struggles are as apparent • Reserve their judgement of people before getting to know their story • Eliminate senseless hatred and learn to not judge a book by its cover <p>Cognitive: Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That everyone should be treated with kindness, and that no individual’s struggles outweigh the struggles of another person • Everyone has their own struggles in life that strangers can’t always see
AUDIENCE:	An entire bunk/cabin/age group of middle-school aged campers, 10-13
TIMING:	2.5 hours
APPENDICES:	n/a; list of questions that will be used for preliminary and post-movie discussions are below
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Snacks, counselors in costumes, counselors seated around the room to keep campers quiet once the movie starts
SET-UP DETAILS:	Preferably inside with a large screen, campers & counselors sitting on the floor; can also be in a large outdoor space with a projector

NOTE TO STAFF RUNNING THIS PROGRAM: BE VERY CAREFUL AND SENSITIVE ABOUT LANGUAGE USED WHEN DISCUSSING ANY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DIFFERENCES, LIKE WHEN EXPLAINING AUGGIE'S CONDITION. AUGGIE IS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, SO THIS TOPIC COULD HAVE A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO MANY CAMPERS.

SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:05 – Introduce the movie
- 00:05-00:15 – Discuss costumes – introduce how outward appearance can affect inward emotions)
- 00:15-02:05 – Watch movie
 - 01:00-01:05 – Hand out snacks to campers
- 02:05-02:10 – Split into groups
- 02:10-02:30 – Closing group discussion

SESSION OUTLINE:

1. Before dinner, tell the campers that they will be wearing costumes for tonight's evening activity; don't tell them what the activity is or why they are wearing costumes, but encourage them to do so.
2. (00:00-00:05) After dinner, take the campers to the designated movie watching location; have them sit down, and give a brief synopsis of the movie. Ask the entire group the following questions, accepting 3-5 responses:
(00:05-00:15)
 - After hearing the plot of the movie, why do you think we asked you to wear costumes tonight?
 - Who likes to wear costumes? Do you like it more than dressing as you usually do?
 - What types of things do you think people do to help them feel more comfortable physically in a social setting? Think about something like wearing a costume, or sitting in the back of a room.
 - If you feel comfortable sharing, can you give an example of something you do to make yourself feel more comfortable in a public setting?
3. (00:15-02:05) Start the movie. Have counselors sit spread out amongst campers to keep them quiet and focused. Give out snacks around the one-hour mark.
4. (02:05-02:10) After the movie, divide the campers into smaller groups; this could be by bunk or completely mixed groups of 5-8 campers from the entire age group.
5. (02:10-02:30) For 20 minutes, discuss the following questions, preferably getting every camper to participate/give a response to every question:
 - Why were people so hesitant to make friends with Auggie? Was that fair?
 - Can you identify any characters other than Auggie who were struggling with things that other people couldn't see? (Via and Jack Will are good examples if the group can't think of any)

CORNERSTONE 2022 RESOURCE

- Why was Halloween Auggie's favorite holiday of the year? Knowing that, why do you *now* think that we made you wear costumes?
- What did the movie teach you about first impressions and how to value them?
- Think of a time where you may have "judged a book by its cover". What made you realize that what you were doing was wrong? How can you be sure not to do that again?

BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP:

Consider incorporating in-movie short discussion questions; we did not due to fear of time constraints, but the movie has clearly separated sections that each begin with a character's name appearing on the screen. If time allows, these moments would be a great time to break into small groups and discuss the lessons learned in the last section.

You could wait until the Halloween scene to give out snacks, and frame it as a Halloween celebration of your own to coincide with the movie.

Each camp can break campers into groups as they see fit.

- By bunk
- Random groups
- Writing number on hand when walking in

Keep in mind the PaRDeS interpretation of this movie:

- P'shat: plain simple meaning
 - Don't judge a book by it's cover
 - Love your neighbor like you'd love yourself
- Remez: a hint or allusion in the text
 - Positive body image and confidence
- D'rash: a metaphor, comparison, or illustration through a teaching
 - Comparison of campers to Auggie with altered appearances/costumes
- Sod: a mysterious or hidden meaning behind the text
 - Betzelem elochim, everyone has their own struggles, treat everyone with kindness because you don't know what they're going through