

Reader Response Organizer

Target text: R. J. Palacio's novel *Wonder*

My response (Reader #1):

Reader #2 response:

"This book should be required reading for every human being who lives on the planet! I'm a 54 year old grandfather who served in the Marine Corps (just for a little context). I'm not an emotional person but this book was incredibly moving. R. J. Palacio...I can't believe how she so accurately and consistently pegs human nature. The book is a 'novel' - yeah right! This is real life! This is truly like it is. If you ever desired to be a better person, this book can help you start the journey!" (by "Amazon Customer")

Reader #3 response:

"I had to read this book for 6th grade ELA class. I found it boring and as it jumped from person to person telling their side of the story, I found it hard to relate to what is going on in school today. Yes, unfortunately there are people who say mean things but it doesn't stop just because the kid is nice. As for writing it from each character's perspective she should have made sure to include the perspective of Julian. That way people can see the reasons bullies pick on someone. If you are going to write a book about it make sure you tell that point of view also. Not just how one kid changed his mind. For teachers who are thinking about using this book, they need to realize there are more kinds of fiction books out there than realistic fiction. As well as we all hear about being kind in the many assemblies as well as classes on cyber bullying. To have to read a book that just doesn't relate to how things are truly are, is ridiculous." (by "Rhonda Christensen")

Reader #4 response:

"I gave this to my eight-year-old daughter to read, based on the overwhelming positive reviews. She got to page 80 then stopped, saying it was boring, nothing was happening. I decided to check for myself, and by the time I reached page 100 I realized (a) this book indeed has no plot, and (b) all it is making me feel is sick pity. I skimmed another 100 pages, and indeed there is very little dramatic plot here that couldn't have been conveyed better in a short story or cheesy after school special. As literature, this is low-grade naturalism: the characters do not think and act, they feel and react. And the overwhelming feeling experienced by all of the important characters is pain -- the pain of living in a universe ruled by the petty injustices of the crowd. I won't be encouraging my daughter to go further. Instead we might turn to some truly great literature about a noble soul in an unfortunate body: sorry Auggie, but you are no Cyrano." (by "bradw2k")

- Where and about what exactly do these responses agree and/or disagree?
- What clues do you see that could help explain why these responses agree and/or disagree?

