1. Author’s Biography

Raquel Jaramillo Palacio under the pen name R. J. Palacio is the author of *Wonder*, which has been published in 10 languages and received worldwide attention. *Wonder* was on The New York Times Best Seller list and was also on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list. The novel was the winner of Hawaii's 2015 Nene Award. In Illinois it won both the Bluestem and Caudill Awards in 2014.

The novel has sold over 1.5 million copies since its publication in 2012 by Alfred A with 315 pages. Knopf. The book’s message to choose kind has reached the hearts of readers young and old nationwide and was embraced widely by numerous media outlets, including *Good Morning America*, *LIVE! With Kelly and Michael*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Entertainment Weekly*.

Palacio is also the author of *The Julian Chapter* in 2014 and *365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne’s Book of Precepts* which is also published in 2014.

R.J. Palacio lives in New York City with her husband, two sons, and two dogs. For more than twenty years, she was an art director and graphic designer, designing book jackets for other people while waiting for the perfect time in her life to start writing her own novel. But one day several years ago, a chance encounter with an extraordinary child in front of an ice cream store made R. J. realize that the perfect time to write that novel had finally come. *Wonder* is her first novel. She did not design the cover, but she sure does love it.
R. J. Palacio was born and raised in New York City. She attended the High School of Art and Design and the Parsons School of Design, where she majored in illustration with the hopes of someday following in the footsteps of her favorite childhood author-illustrators, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Maurice Sendak, and the D’Aulaires.

Palacio wrote *Wonder* after an incident where she took her sons for ice cream, and while her older son went inside to buy them milk shakes, she and her younger son waited on the bench outside. Her younger son was only about 3 years old at the time, and he was in his stroller facing her while they sat on the bench. At a certain point she realized that sitting right next to me was a little girl with a severe craniofacial difference. When her younger son looked up and saw her, he reacted exactly the way people might think a three-year old would react when seeing something that scared him: he started to cry—pretty loudly, too. Palacio hurriedly tried to push him away in the stroller, not for his sake but to avoid hurting the girl's feelings.

**Bibliography**

http://rjpalacio.com/author.html

http://choosekind.tumblr.com/author

2. The summary of *Wonder*

August Pullman introduces himself to readers in the first chapter of the novel. August was born with severe birth defects, including mandibulofacial dysostosis, which has left his entire face disfigured. "I won’t describe what I look like," he says. "Whatever you’re thinking, it’s probably worse.” In his ten years, August has learned to live with people's reactions to him. He doesn't like it, but he knows people will always stare at him and think of him as a freak. His parents have been protecting him by homeschooling him, but that changes when his mother decides it's time for him to start attending a regular school.

During the rest of the school year, August is bullied by his friends. But beside that, he still have some friends at school like Summer, Jack and others. When the fifth graders are away at nature camp, August and Jack are accosted in the woods one night by some big seventh-graders looking for trouble, and August is verbally and physically assaulted for no reason other than his appearance. A few other boys from August’ class circle back to see what's going on, but when they step in to help, the situation explodes into a scuffle. Sweatshirts are ripped, elbows get scraped, and most painfully, August’ expensive hearing aids are lost in the night.

August is terrified and hurt, but exhilarated too. Even in pain and in tears, he realizes that boys who have until this point either actively shunned or passively ignored him have, on this occasion, stood up for him and protected him, and have pledged to continue to do so. The injustice of the cruelty toward August catalyzes a permanent change for the better in his classmates' attitudes.
His peers finally accept him as one of their own—as a kid with a heart, a brain, and a great sense of humor in addition to his weird face. August’s fifth grade year culminates in victory, and he is admired by students and teachers alike for his courage, his perseverance in the face of difficulty, and the quiet strength of his character. At the year’s end, at the graduation ceremony, August is awarded the "Henry Ward Beecher Medal" which “honours students who have been notable or exemplary in certain areas throughout the school year”. He gets a standing ovation and appreciation. The book ends with his mother whispering in his ear, "You really are a wonder, Auggie. You are a wonder."

R.J. Palacio has written a modern classic—a funny, uplifting, and incredibly moving novel to read in one sitting, pass on to others, and remember long after the final page.