



Pocklington School
11+ English Entrance Assessment
1 hour

Read the passage below with care

Answer ALL of the questions in as much detail as you can

Do not begin until you are told to do so

**You should spend approximately 30 minutes on
Questions 1-7 (25 marks in total)**

**You should spend approximately 30 minutes planning
and writing your answer to Question 8 (25 marks)**

This is the opening of the novel *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. A boy who thinks he is ordinary tells the story. Other people do not think he is ordinary.

I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old boy. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice-cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

If I found a magic lamp and I could have one wish, I would wish that I had a normal face that no one ever noticed at all. I would wish that I could walk down a street without people seeing me and doing that look-away thing. Here's what I think: the only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way.

But I'm kind of used to how I look by now. I know how to pretend I don't see the faces that people make. We've all gotten pretty good at that sort of thing: me, Mom and Dad, Via. Actually, I take that back: Via's not so good at it. She can get really annoyed when people do something rude. Like, for instance, one time in the playground some older kids made some noises. I don't even know what the noises were because I didn't hear them myself, but Via heard them and she just started yelling at the kids. That's the way she is. But I'm not that way.

Via doesn't see me as ordinary. She says she does, but if I were ordinary, she wouldn't feel the need to protect me as much. And Mom and Dad don't see me as ordinary, either. They see me as extraordinary. I think the only person in the world who realizes how ordinary I am is me.

My name is August, by the way. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

1. List 4 “ordinary things” August does. (4 marks)

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. In the **first** paragraph, what do “ordinary kids” do when they see August? (2 marks)

3. Describe what August would wish for in the **second** paragraph. (5 marks)

4. In the **third** paragraph, how does Via behave compared to other members of August’s family? (2 marks)

5. What does Via's behavior tell show you about her character?
(2 marks)

6. Why do you think this story is written in the **first person** (using "I"/"me")? (3 marks)

7. What do you learn about August in this extract? (7 marks)

You could write about:

- How he feels
- How he behaves
- His personality
- His relationship with this family



