

Wonder Comprehension

Wonder 7 p. 184-204

Part A

1. Why do you think Justin was nervous on page 184? Think of at least two reasons and explain your answers.

2. Justin doesn't use capital letters. Why not? What other punctuation is missing?

3. List some words/phrases on p. 187-189 to indicate that Justin is cool (or acts like he is). There are six in all.

4. Why does Justin greet the different members of the family in four different ways on p. 190? Explain each greeting.

5. Why have Justin's tics stopped by the end of the meal?

6. p. 195 What might Via have wished for? Explain each of your suggestions.

7. On p. 196, Justin describes Jack as being like one of those little-rascal-kids. Watch a short video clip from Little Rascals and explain why Justin describes Jack like that.

8. Why is Via crying on p. 202-203? Give two reasons if you can.

Wonder Comprehension

Wonder 7 p. 184-204

Part B

1. p. 184-185 Would you say that August and Jack are having fun? Or would you say that they are bullying Justin? Explain your answer.

2. Read p. 187-189 and p. 194-195 and think about how the characters feel. Do you imagine yourself ever feeling this way when you are older? You don't have to write anything down.
3. Complete the table contrasting Via's family with Justin's. Use evidence from the text where you can:

	Via's family	Justin's family
Relationship between mum and dad		
Relationship between siblings		
Stability of home life		
Interest in Justin		
Protectiveness		
Pets		

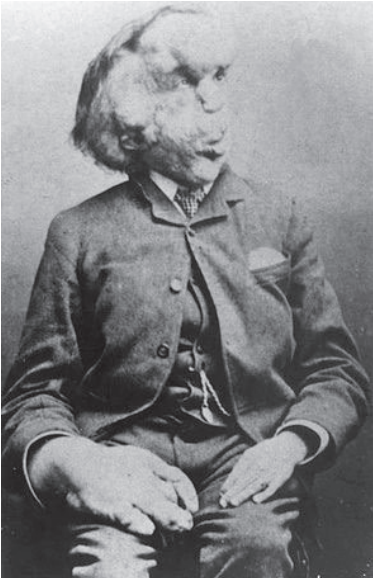
4. p. 199. Justin sprints down the subway at the end of this chapter. Can you explain why?

5. At the end of p. 204, Justin says 'the Universe takes care of all its birds'. What does he mean? Use the information on p. 204 to help you answer.

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Challenge Task ★ ★ ★

Joseph Merrick (referred to as John Merrick in Wonder) is mentioned on page 186. Research Mr Merrick to complete the fact file, including why he's referred to in Wonder (check p. 193) and what his quote, "Sometimes I think my head is so big because it is so full of dreams", has got to do with August.

Joseph Merrick Fact File



Full name: _____

Nick name(s): _____

Date of birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Date of death: _____

Place of death: _____

Famous for: _____

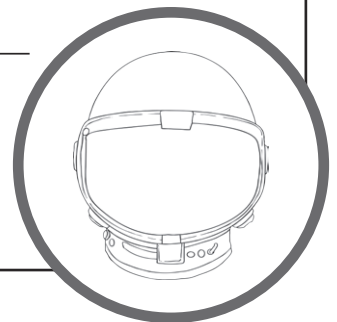
Interesting Facts:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I think Mr Merrick's quote, "Sometimes I think my head is so big because it is so full of dreams" relates to August in Wonder because:



Wonder Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. Why do you think Justin was nervous on page 184? Think of at least two reasons and explain your answers.

Suggested answer: Justin is meeting Via's little brother for the first time and that's quite scary in itself. But he's also meeting August and seeing his face, which can be startling for some people, and he wants to be cool about it in front of Via. The boys are also being a bit cheeky towards him and he's got to be cool about them making fun of him – he knows what's going on because he's older.

2. Justin doesn't use capital letters. Why not? What other punctuation is missing?

Suggested answer: Justin is probably trying to be cool and be a bit different. Teenagers do that kind of thing! He doesn't use inverted commas for speech either.

3. List some words/phrases on p. 187-189 to indicate that Justin is cool (or acts like he is). There are six in all.

Vibe, rocked, awesome, hanging out, registered, I guess.

4. Why does Justin greet the different members of the family in four different ways on p. 190? Explain each greeting.

Suggested answer: Justin shakes hands with Via's dad to be respectful and hugs her mum because that's how grown women tend to greet people casually. He kisses Via because they're girlfriend and boyfriend. And he fist-punches August because he's being cool and friendly.

5. Why have Justin's tics stopped by the end of the meal?

Suggested answer: Justin is much more relaxed at the end of the meal. The family are treating him like he's one of the family and they've accepted him. He's enjoying being with them because they're loving, laugh a lot and are relaxed themselves. Justin's tics come on when he's nervous – he's not nervous by the end of the meal.

6. p. 195 What might Via have wished for? Explain each of your suggestions.

Answers might include:

Via might have wished for everything to be OK with August – she's just mentioned him and he might be on her mind

She might be wishing for Justin to remember his lines and for the performance to go well.

She might have wished for Justin to love her as much as she loves him or for their relationship to continue.

Or she might be wishing he'd kiss her. They're caught kissing at the beginning of the next chapter.

7. On p. 196, Justin describes Jack as being like one of those little-rascal-kids. Watch a short video clip from Little Rascals and explain why Justin describes Jack like that.

Possible answer. Jack is small, with a gravelly voice, like the Little Rascals in the clip. He's a tough guy and a bit cheeky – he wants to wait for the bus by himself and borrows some money from Justin for gum. The Rascals look fed up in the clip and Jack's fed up later in the chapter when he talks about Julian and his gang.

8. Why is Via crying on p. 202-203? Give two reasons if you can.

She's ashamed of herself that the reason she hasn't told her family about the play is that she doesn't want August to come and have to deal with the way people react to him. She is probably also upset about the breakdown in her friendship with Miranda – they've just been arguing about it.

Part B

1. p. 184-185 Would you say that August and Jack are having fun? Or would you say that they are bullying Justin? Explain your answer.

Suggested answer: August and Jack are having fun with each other. They've only just bonded again after having fallen out for a long time. So, they're just sharing a joke, with Justin as the butt of the joke. Younger brothers often make fun of their older sisters' boyfriends, since it's a bit like making fun of your sister by proxy.

They are bullying Justin, but since he's older and they're just being silly rather than being nasty, it's not as serious as the bullying that August and Jack have been subject to earlier in the book.

2. Read p. 187-189 and p. 194-195 and think about how the characters feel. Do you imagine yourself ever feeling this way when you are older? You don't have to write anything down.

3. Complete the table contrasting Via's family with Justin's. Use evidence from the text where you can:

	Via's family	Justin's family
Relationship between mum and dad	<i>Mum and dad clearly love one another. They're tender towards one another in this scene and earlier on in the book.</i>	<i>Justin's parents split up when he was younger and he says they hate one another.</i>
Relationship between siblings	<i>We've seen that Via is protective of August and that August is a loving, teasing younger brother.</i>	<i>Justin says his older half-brother barely knows he exists.</i>
Stability of home life	<i>The family are strong and look out for one another. They show their love for one another regularly and are relaxed with each other.</i>	<i>Justin lived between two houses and his parents don't seem to care much about him as far as he's concerned.</i>
Interest in Justin	<i>Via's parents ask all about him and his music. They pay him lots of attention that he's just not used to.</i>	<i>Justin says his parents never ask about his life and that they're self-absorbed.</i>
Protectiveness	<i>We've seen that the family are very protective of August and they're there for Via too when she has problems.</i>	<i>Justin feels that he must fend for himself. He says that his parents 'could hardly wait for him to be old enough to take care of himself.</i>
Pets	<i>They've got Daisy, who is a big part of the family scene in this chapter.</i>	<i>Justin's family probably never had pets since he lived between two houses and he never mentions a pet of his own, which he'd be likely to do.</i>

4. p. 199. Justin sprints down the subway at the end of this chapter. Can you explain why?

Suggested answer: He's just done something completely out of character and had a great time doing it. Before this, Justin has been quite serious but here he's had fun by pretending to be a tough guy with a gun in his violin case. He's also pleased that he's been able to take these bullies down a peg or two and help August and Jack out. And he's in love!

5. At the end of p. 204, Justin says 'the Universe takes care of all its birds'. What does he mean? Use the information on p. 204 to help you answer.

Suggested answer: August and his family have a lot to put up with because of his facial disfigurement – medical treatments, everyday discomfort, worries about his health and the way others treat him. Justin has seen the bullying that Jack is going through too.

On the other hand, he's also seen the love that the family have for August, and that his friend has for him and Miranda, who he didn't even know knew August. He is probably contrasting the love so many people have for August with the love he lacks from his own family. He is showing that life gives positives as well as negatives – the universe takes care of all its birds.

Challenge Task

Joseph Merrick (referred to as John Merrick in Wonder) is mentioned on page 186. Research Mr Merrick to complete the fact file, including why he's referred to in Wonder (check p. 193) and what his quote, "Sometimes I think my head is so big because it is so full of dreams", has got to do with August.

Full name: Joseph Merrick.

Nick name(s): Elephant Man, John Merrick.

Date of birth: 5 August 1862.

Place of birth: Leicester, United Kingdom.

Date of death: 11 April 1890.

Place of death: London Hospital.

Famous for: Various answers that could relate to: his disfigurements, his ailments being a scientific mystery, travelling in fairs as an exhibit/novelty.

Interesting Facts: Various answers.

I think Mr Merrick's quote, "Sometimes I think my head is so big because it is so full of dreams" relates to August in Wonder because:

Various answers possible. Answers should compare August's treatment with that of Merrick.