

Just Keep Swimming

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In the book *Wonder* by RJ Palacio, the relationship between Auggie and Via is not limited to the fact that they are siblings, because the problems that they were faced with were not only the same but also brought them closer together. They both seemed to have nothing in common, but by experiencing the same problems, they were glued closer together.

When the book kicks off, they seem as though they have nothing in common. Via is a popular fifteen year-old girl who goes to a public school and is secretly jealous of her brother, Auggie. Auggie is a ten year-old boy born with a severely deformed face, which results in twenty seven surgeries which takes up most of his time. He is also homeschooled by his mum. Via says that it seems as if Via and her parents, “are planets orbiting the Sun (Auggie)”, but does not want to complain because of all of the “hardships” Auggie had overcome. She feels as if her parents don’t care as much about her, because they spend less time with her.

Auggie is stepping into the real world for the first time as he jumps into high school. The story progresses and Auggie has a hard time making friends, because all of the students and teachers are scared of his face, to an extent but he manages to become friends with Summer and Jack. In the mean time, Via recently ends her friendship with Miranda after it had seemed that she had changed personalities because she had changed her hairstyle and become distant from Via, but she also started a relationship with a nice, but nerdy guy named Justin. Later on, Auggie ends up being popular after an incident that happened in camp where a couple of students defended him from a couple of bullies in the wood. He also does well in class and receives a High Honour Roll in school. In the end, when Miranda comes over to the Pullman’s household (Auggie’s family's house) she is so touched by them that she reunites with her best friend, Via. As things start looking up again, Via starts to reconnect with Auggie and they skip a day of school to play with their new puppy, Bear.

When they struggled in the changes of their lives, their friendship drove apart, but in the end no matter how hard they needed to swim, they swam and cruised through, enforcing their bond. This shows us that pain—something that is so unpleasant can have a very positive impact on people and their social connections when they experience it with other people.

Some may argue that because they want to connect with their friends and solve their own problems, their trials brought them further apart, but what doesn’t kill us makes us stronger. Even though their lives were so different, their struggles were the same and it drove them closer than ever so remember, “When life gets you down do you wanna know what you’ve gotta do? Just keep swimming.”