

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wonder By R.J. Palacio**  
**Part One - August**  
**Vocabulary**

**Words to Know:**

**Contagious**  
**Exception**  
**Precepts**  
**Elective**  
**Avoiding**  
**Anomalies**

**Directions:** For each vocabulary word, either write a definition for the word, or write the word in a sentence. Use a dictionary or thesaurus as you need.

**From Wonder:**

“They told Mom and Dad I had a cleft palate and some other stuff going on. They called it ‘small **anomalies**.’” (page 6)

**Definition:**

**Anomalies** are differences from what is typical.

**Word in a sentence:**

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**From Wonder:**

“‘We can’t keep protecting him,’ Mom whispered to Dad, who was driving. ‘We can’t just pretend he’s going to wake up tomorrow and this isn’t going to be reality, because it *is*, Nate, and we have to help him learn to deal with it. We can’t just keep **avoiding** situations that...’” (page 10)

**Definition:**

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**Word in a sentence:**

I am **avoiding** eating vegetables at the dinner table.

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**From Wonder:**

“We have a couple of great science **electives** at Beecher,’he said. ‘Maybe you’ll take one of them?’

‘Uh-huh,’ I said, though I had no idea what an **elective** was.’” (page 16)

**Definition:**

An **elective** is a class you sign-up for at school. It is a *chosen* class rather than a *required* class.

**Word in a sentence:**

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**From Wonder:**

“**PRECEPTS** = RULES ABOUT REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS!” (page 46)

**Definition:**

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**Word in a sentence:**

My grandmother taught me **precepts** that help me solve problems in my life.

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**From Wonder:**

“‘There’s a Maya’, I said. ‘Technically, May is spring,’ Summer answered, but if she wanted to sit here, we could make an **exception**.’” (page 52)

**Definition:**

An **exception** is a special difference from the standard rule or norm.

**Word in a sentence:**

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**From Wonder:**

“They would take the longest way around me to avoid bumping into me in any way, like I had some germ they could catch, like my face was **contagious**.” (page 61)

**Definition:**

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**Word in a sentence:**

I had to stay home from school because the doctor said my flu was **contagious**, and I could get other kids sick.