**Answers**

**Oli: to practise reading comprehension skills.**

**p. 268-270. How would you describe the structure of these pages? (How are they written?)**

• This section is mainly speech. The speeches are short, with one person speaking soon after another which makes the pace very quick.

**p. 271-272. Explain why this chapter is called ‘The Emperor’s Guard’? Who is the emperor and why?**

• The other boys are surrounding August so that he is protected. They’re looking after him so that nothing else happens to him. August is the emperor because he’s now important – he’s the focus of their attention in a way that he has never been before. He’s probably also the emperor in a Star Wars reference too.

**p. 274. At the top of the page, the author uses the word ‘same’ a lot. Is this bad writing?**

• The author deliberately uses the word ‘same’ repeatedly because it emphasises the sameness of everything. The repetition of ‘same’ is the same, so the way the passage is written matches what August is trying to describe about the scene. It’s not bad writing at all!

**p. 277. Why does August laugh when his mum says, ‘thugs’?**

• Mom pauses before and after she says ‘thugs’, as if she’s choosing the word carefully and deliberately. It’s quite an old-fashioned word and August thinks it’s funny. She has a laugh afterwards about the word and substitutes it for more modern words and one that her mother would have used.

**p. 282. Describe a ‘seismic’ shift and a ‘cosmic’ shift. How does the choice of those phrases add to your understanding of August’s new situation?**

• A seismic shift is where the Earth moves, a cosmic shift is where the whole of space moves. The phrases are hyperbolic (exaggerated) to emphasise the massive social shift that’s happened for August.

**p. 284-287. Can you summarise this chapter in five bullet points?**

• Various answers.

**p. 289-290. What is the significance of August’s hair on these pages and at different points in the story?**

• August had bangs at the beginning of the story that covered up his face. He used his hair to hide his disfigurement. Now he’s had his hair cut and gelled, so he’s not now afraid of showing his face because others have accepted what he looks like. He’s also wanting to look good – just like any other teen – and make his hair fashionable. He cut off his Padawan braid just before he started school because he felt self-conscious about it – the braid was also part of the Star Wars theme.

**Look at the last and first paragraphs of each of the final chapters. How does the author use chapter breaks?**

• Example answer: The author uses chapter breaks as natural pauses. The last and first paragraphs are related to one another and they move the story on. For example, at the end of p. 304, August wins the award and the beginning of the next chapter relates August’s feelings about it with a description of what happens next. The breaks mean that the reader has some time to think - they’re a bit like the pauses in reality TV competitions, building up the drama.

**What do you think of the book? Have you learnt anything from August?**

• Open response.

**Greater Depth questions**



**p. 268-270. What does the structure of this section tell you about the characters at this point?**

• The pace is quick because of the amount of short speech followed by short description. This pace reflects the relief, excitement and adrenalin going on with the characters after the scary experience. They’re relieved and joking around with each other to get over the shock of what’s just happened.

**p. 273. The author uses a quotation from The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe at the beginning of this chapter. Why?**

* This is the book that August has taken away with him. He was reading it before he left and he’s reading it now because he can’t sleep.
* ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ is about good overcoming evil and, in a way, this is what Wonder is about – August’s positive influence and his family’s love overcoming the negativity of others towards his difference.
* The scene August is reading reflects the fight August has just been through. It’s like he can’t get the fight out of his head and is reliving it over again, even in his reading.
* It’s interesting that the horrible creatures are described as ‘deformed’ because that’s a word that’s used negatively against August.