



The perks of being a wallflower

In the hallways, I see the girls wearing the guys' jackets, and I think about the idea of property. And I wonder if anyone is really happy. I hope they are. I really hope they are. Bill looked at me looking at people, and after class, he asked me what I was thinking about, and I told him. He listened, and he nodded and made "affirmation" sounds. When I had finished, his face changed into a "serious talk" face.

"Do you always think this much, Charlie?"

"Is that bad?" I just wanted someone to tell me the truth.

"Not necessarily. It's just that sometimes people use thought to not participate in life."

"Is that bad?"

"Yes."

"I think I participate, though. Don't you think I am?"

"Well, are you dancing at these dances?"

"I'm not a very good dancer."

"Are you going on dates?"

"Well, I don't have a car, and even if I did, I can't drive because I'm fifteen, and anyway, I haven't met a girl I like except for Sam, but I am too young for her, and she would always have to drive, which I don't think is fair."

Bill smiled and continued asking me questions. Slowly, he got to "problems at home." And I told him about the boy who makes mix tapes hitting my sister because my sister only told me not to tell mom or dad about it, so I figured I could tell Bill. He got this very serious look on his face after I told him, and he said something to me I don't think I will forget this semester or ever.

"Charlie, we accept the love we think we deserve."



There is a feeling that I had Friday night after the homecoming game that I don't know if I will ever be able to describe except to say that it is warm. Sam and Patrick drove me to the party that night, and I sat in the middle of Sam's pickup truck. Sam loves her pickup truck because I think it reminds her of her dad. The feeling I had happened when Sam told Patrick to find a station on the radio. And he kept getting commercials. And commercials. And a really bad song about love that had the word "baby" in it. And then more commercials. And finally he found this really amazing song about this boy, and we all got quiet.

Sam tapped her hand on the steering wheel. Patrick held his hand outside the car and made air waves. And I just sat between them. After the song finished, I said something.

"I feel infinite."



I always wanted to be on a sports team like that. I'm not exactly sure why, but I always thought it would be fun to have "glory days." Then, I would have stories to tell my children and golf buddies. I guess I could tell people about Punk Rocky and walking home from school and things like that.

Maybe these are my glory days, and I'm not even realizing it because they don't involve a ball.

I used to play sports when I was little, and I was actually very good, but the problem was that it used to make me too aggressive, so the doctors told my mom I would have to stop. My dad had glory days once. I've seen pictures of him when he was young. He was a very handsome man. I don't know any other way to put it. He looked like all old pictures look. Old pictures look very rugged and young, and the people in the photographs always seem a lot happier than you are.

I don't know how long I kept going to the doctor. I don't remember how long they kept me out of school. It was a long time. I know that much. All I remember is the day I started getting better because I remembered the last thing my Aunt Helen said just before she left to drive in the snow.

She wrapped herself in a coat. I handed her the car keys because I was always the one who could find them. I asked Aunt Helen where she was going. She told me that it was a secret. I kept bugging my aunt Helen, which she loved. She loved the way I would keep asking her questions. She finally shook her head, smiled, and whispered in my ear.

"I'm going to buy your birthday present."

That's the last time I ever saw her. I like to think my aunt Helen would now have that good job she was studying for. I like to think she would have met a good man. I like to think she would have lost the weight she always wanted to lose without dieting.

Despite everything my mom and doctor and dad have said to me about blame, I can't stop thinking what I know. And I know that my aunt Helen would still be alive today if she just bought me one present like everybody else. She would be alive if I were born on a day that didn't snow. I would do anything to make this go away. I miss her terribly. I have to stop writing now because I am too sad.

When they announced my sister's name, my mom uncoiled into applause. It was really great watching my sister get on the podium because my brother was something like 223rd in his class and consequently didn't get to give a speech. And maybe I'm biased, but when my sister quoted a pop song and talked about the future, it seemed great. I looked over



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at my brother, and he looked over at me. And we both smiled. Then, we looked at my mother, and she was crying real soft and messy, so my brother and I each took one of her hands. She looked at us and smiled and cried harder. Then, we both rested our heads on her shoulders, like a sideways hug, which made her cry even harder. Or maybe it let her cry even harder. I'm not sure which. But she gave our hands a little squeeze and said, "My boys," real soft, and went back to crying. I love my mom so much. I don't care if that's corny to say. I think on my next birthday, I'm going to buy her a present. I think that should be the tradition. The kid gets gifts from everybody, and he buys one present for his mom since she was there, too. I think that would be nice.



The perks of being a wallflower - teacher's notes

In the hallways, I see the girls wearing the guys' jackets, and I think about the idea of property. And I wonder if anyone is really happy. I hope they are. I really hope they are.

Bill looked at me looking at people, **and after class**, he asked me what I was thinking about, and I told him. He listened, and he nodded and made "affirmation" sounds. When I had finished, his face changed into a "serious talk" face.

"Do you always think this much, Charlie?"

"Is that bad?" I just wanted someone to tell me the truth.

"Not necessarily. It's just that sometimes people use thought to not participate in life."

"Is that bad?"

"Yes."

"I think I participate, though. Don't you think I am?"

"Well, are you dancing at these dances?"

"I'm not a very good dancer."

"Are you going on dates?"

"Well, I don't have a car, and even if I did, I can't drive because I'm fifteen, and anyway, I haven't met a girl I like except for **Sam**, but I am too young for her, and she would always have to drive, which I don't think is fair."

Bill smiled and continued asking me questions. Slowly, he got to "problems at home." And I told him about the boy who makes mix tapes hitting **my sister because my sister** only told me not to tell mom or dad about it, so I figured I could tell Bill. He got this very serious look on his face after I told him, and he said something to me I don't think I will forget this semester or ever.

"Charlie, we accept the love we think we deserve."

Teacher's notes:

Hints which can help to divide the excerpts to two categories.

1. The main character is Charlie who is fifteen.
2. He is at school.
3. He has a sister.
4. He likes a girl called Sam.



There is a feeling that I had Friday night after **the homecoming game** that I don't know if I will ever be able to describe except to say that it is warm. **Sam and Patrick drove me to the party that night, and I sat in the middle of Sam's pickup truck. Sam loves** her pickup truck because I think it reminds her of her dad. The feeling I had happened when Sam told Patrick to find a station on the radio. And he kept getting commercials. And commercials. And a really bad song about love that had the word "baby" in it. And then more commercials. And finally he found this really amazing song about this boy, and we all got quiet.

Sam tapped her hand on the steering wheel. Patrick held his hand outside the car and made air waves. And I just sat between them. After the song finished, I said something.

"I feel infinite."

Teacher's notes:

Hints which can help to divide the excerpts to two categories.

1. The homecoming game is a school event.
2. There is a girl Sam who we know Charlie likes from the other excerpt.

I always wanted to be on **a sports team** like that. I'm not exactly sure why, but I always thought it would be fun to have "glory days." Then, I would have stories to tell my children and golf buddies. I guess I could tell people about Punk Rocky and **walking home from school** and things like that.

Maybe these are my glory days, and I'm not even realizing it because they don't involve a ball.

I used to play sports when I was little, and I was actually very good, but the problem was that it used to make me too aggressive, so the doctors told my mom I would have to stop. My dad had glory days once. I've seen pictures of him when he was young. He was a very handsome man. I don't know any other way to put it. He looked like all old pictures look. Old pictures look very rugged and young, and the people in the photographs always seem a lot happier than you are.

Teacher's notes:

Hints which can help to divide the excerpts to two categories.

1. At high schools there usually are sport teams.
2. He mentions his school attendance again.

I don't know how long I kept going to the doctor. **I don't remember how long they kept me out of school. It was a long time.** I know that much. All I remember is the day I started getting better because I remembered the last thing my Aunt Helen said just before she left to drive in the snow.

She wrapped herself in a coat. I handed her the car keys because I was always the one who could find them. I asked Aunt Helen where she was going. She told me that it was a secret. I kept bugging my aunt Helen, which she loved. She loved the way I would keep asking her questions. She finally shook her head, smiled, and whispered in my ear.

"I'm going to buy your birthday present."

That's the last time I ever saw her. I like to think my aunt Helen would now have that good job she was studying for. I like to think she would have met a good man. I like to think she would have lost the weight she always wanted to lose without dieting.

Despite everything my mom and doctor and dad have said to me about blame, I can't stop thinking what I know. And I know that my aunt Helen would still be alive today if she just bought me one present like everybody else. She would be alive if I were born on a day that didn't snow. I would do anything to make this go away. I miss her terribly. I have to stop writing now because I am too sad.

Teacher's notes:

Hints which can help to divide the excerpts to two categories.

1. He had health problems and for that reason he wasn't able to go to school. The character mentions his school attendance again.

When they announced **my sister's name**, my mom uncoiled into applause. **It was really great watching my sister get on the podium because my brother was something like 223rd in his class and consequently didn't get to give a speech.** And maybe I'm biased, but when my sister quoted a pop song and talked about the future, it seemed great. I looked over at my brother, and he looked over at me. And we both smiled. Then, we looked at my mother, and she was crying real soft and messy, so my brother and I each took one of her hands. She looked at us and smiled and cried harder. Then, we both rested our heads on her shoulders, like a sideways hug, which made her cry even



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Teacher's notes:

Hints which can help to divide the excerpts to two categories.

1. Charlie's sister was having a speech on the podium. Because she belonged to the best students.



The perks of being a wallflower - worksheet

Appendix 2

Worksheet

1. According to the excerpts, choose from the following features and traits those ones which describe the main characters, Charlie and Matt, the best.

introverted – communicative – creative - superficial - contemplative – cheerful – likes his close relatives – friendly – sociable – solitary – perceptive – indifferent – sensitive

Charlie	Matthew

2. Make a list of other features and traits of the main characters which you revealed while reading the excerpts:

.....

Certainly, you have recognised that Charlie analysis each situations in details. Find a technical term which describes this feature. You can help yourself with a dictionary.

The feature:

The used dictionary:

3. a) After reading the excerpts you could notice that both characters were feeling **sad** for some reasons.
Analyse the reasons why were they feeling sad.
- b) Create an abstract noun from the adverb sadly and make a list of synonyms of this word which would express the stated emotion of the characters. You can help yourself with a dictionary.

.....

Think and find out which features and traits had these main characters in common and what the difference was between them.



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Features in common	Differences between the characters

c) From the following idioms chose those ones which characterize one of the characters. Explain the idioms. You can help yourself with a dictionary.

Je mu ťažko okolo srdca Každý vie, kde ho topánka tlačí
Mať dve tváre Mať široké lakte

Má tuhý koreňok
Mať život pod psa



The shock of the fall - worksheet_teacher's notes

Appendix 2

Worksheet

4. According to the excerpts, choose from the following features and traits those ones which describe the main characters, Charlie and Matt, the best.

introverted – communicative – creative - superficial - contemplative – cheerful – likes his close relatives – friendly – sociable – solitary – perceptive – indifferent – sensitive

Charlie	Matthew
Introverted, contemplative, cheerful, communicative, likes his close relatives, friendly, sociable, perceptive, sensitive	Introverted, creative, contemplative, likes his close relatives, solitary, perceptive, sensitive

5. Make a list of other features and traits of the main characters which you revealed while reading the excerpts:

.....**Students' answers**

Certainly, you have recognised that Charlie analysis each situations in details. Find a technical term which describes this feature. You can help yourself with a dictionary.

The feature: **rumination (the act of thinking carefully and for a long period about something), chew your cud (to think slowly and carefully about something)**

The used dictionary: **dictionary.cambridge.org**

6. a) After reading the excerpts you could notice that both characters were feeling **sad** for some reasons.
Analyse the reasons why were they feeling sad.
d) Create an abstract noun from the adverb sadly and make a list of synonyms of this word which would express the stated emotion of the characters. You can help yourself with a dictionary.

Students' answers.....

Sadness : dejection, melancholy, depression, despondency, blues, sorrow, grief



7. Think and find out which features and traits had these main characters in common and what the difference was between them.

Features in common	Differences between the characters
Students' answers	Students' answers

- e) From the following idioms chose those ones which characterize one of the characters. Explain the idioms. You can help yourself with a dictionary.

His heart sinks (you suddenly feel sad or depressed about something) : **Charlie (his aunt's death), Matt (he doesn't know who is this person inside him)**

With a sinking heart (with a feeling of sadness or fear): **Charlie, Matt**

Take the rough with the smooth (accept the unpleasant part of something) : **Matt**

His face falls (he looks suddenly disappointed or upset): **Charlie**

Give somebody the elbow (to tell somebody that you no longer want to have a relationship with them): **None of them**

A social butterfly (A social butterfly is an extroverted person who loves to socialize. Like a butterfly goes quickly from flower to flower, a "social butterfly" often goes around a room having conversations with many people.): **None of them. Charlie was more sociable, had some friends. Matt didn't have any.**

Have your head in the clouds – (If you have your head in the clouds, you are so absorbed by your thoughts that you are not paying attention to what is happening around you.) : **Matt (lost in his world)**

A dark horse (If you refer to a person as a "dark horse", you mean that they are secretive, or that little is known about them.) **Matt: didn't speak about his second personality**



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The perks of being a wallflower Stephen Chbosky



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Background

- He's an American novelist, screen writer and film director.
- He was born on the 25th of January 1970 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* was Chbosky's first novel, as well as his most successful, but Chbosky's talents extend beyond his role as a novelist.





Sources

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Wallflower

Wall-flow-er
[wawl-flou-er]

1. A person who because of shyness, unpopularity, or lack of a partner, remains at the side at a party or dance
2. Any person that remains on or has been forced to the sidelines of any activity

"He's a wallflower... You see things. You keep quiet about them and you understand"



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Plot

- The story is about a 15 year old Charlie who is coping with the loss of his best friend, Michael.
- He's a freshman, to lessen the fear and anxiety of starting high school alone, he starts writing letters to a stranger, whom he never met in person, but heard that this "friend" would listen.



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Plot

- At school, Charlie's English teacher, Bill became his mentor and also his friend.
- At school, Charlie overcomes his chronic shyness and approaches his wood shop classmate Patrick, who along with his step-sister Sam, become Charlie's best friends in high school.





Plot

- During his freshman year, he experiences new things in life.
- Charlie has his first date and first kiss.
- He deals with bullies and love problems.
- He also experiments with drugs and alcohol.





Setting

- The novel “**The Perks of being a Wallflower**” takes place in a suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Charlie never tell us exactly where he lives because he did not mentioned his address in the letters.
- Mostly at school.

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Characters

- Charlie – Charlie is 15 and has just started his life as a high schooler. He soon realizes he is a wallflower.
- Sam – Sam is 18 and is Patrick's step-sister. She is Charlie's main love interest.
- Patrick – Patrick is Sam's step-brother.



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Quotes

"I was looking at the photographs and I started thinking that there was a time when these weren't memories,,

"I am very interested and fascinated how everyone loves each other, but no one really likes each other,,

"It's much easier not to know things sometimes,,

"Things change. And friends leave. Life doesn't stop for anybody,,

"He's a wallflower. You see things. You keep quite about them.

And you understand"

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Theme

- The Perks of Being a Wallflower describes serious topics in the life of an adolescent's first year in high school.
- Growing up: Living a Teenage life
- Innocence & being influenced easily
- Trauma affects Identity



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