



---

## Activity

In this activity, you will be learning to read visual language and intention in a music video.

You'll notice at the beginning of each section of Wonder that there is a lyric from a song printed. The one on page 81 is from Space Oddity by David Bowie. All these lyrics reflect the story and its characters.

The main lyric quoted is from Wonder by Natalie Merchant. The first two verses of this song are printed at the beginning of the book.

Natalie Merchant is an American singer and songwriter. As a teenager, she worked with children with special needs. These children were in institutional care and many of them had unpredictable behaviour. Natalie overcame her initial fear and became good friends with the children she worked with. She wrote the song, Wonder, about a woman with disabilities who overcame them with the help of her adopted family.

[View the video of Wonder by Natalie Merchant.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zpYFAzhAZY)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zpYFAzhAZY>

You may need to watch the video a few times. After you have watched the video, answer these questions:

1. Do you like the music and the video? Why/why not?
2. What types of people are featured in the video?
3. Who appears to be singing in the video? What message do you think this sends?
4. What message do you think the images in the video give the viewer about women?
5. What message do you think the images in the video give about people with disabilities?
6. Does the video make you think of anything in your own life or experience?

There are no correct answers to this – you are writing what you think.