



Smarty Activity

Reading Strategies

Book App: Ethan Blecher Braves a Bully

Activity Title: Reading Strategies
Approximate Grade Level: 2nd - 4th

Subject(s): Language Arts, Reading Strategies

Discussion Questions with Deeper Thinking

*******Spoiler Alert*******

- **Text-to-Self** –

When you dream, your mind creates strange stories that may be related to your day-to-day life.

When Ethan was being chased in the field by cows, what do you think was causing Ethan to dream something like that?

Are there things happening in your life that caused you to have strange dreams? Describe what happened in your dream?

- What's it like to be afraid of someone who is mean?
- What did Ethan's dream mean?
- What are things a bully does?

- What is the difference between a bully and a mean person?
- What do you think about others calling Ethan a hero?

- **Text-to-Text** –

This book is about a bully. They do mean and harmful things to others.

Have you ever read a book or watched a movie that had a bully as one of the characters?

What was the title of the book or movie? Who was the bully and who was the person being bullied? What happened?

Describe how the person being bullied solved his problem.

What lesson did you learn from this story or movie?

- **Text-to-World** –

There are countries in the world run by bad people who want to hurt and control the citizens in that country. They are called dictators or tyrants, which is like a bully.

Using books from your school library or with help from an adult using the Internet, choose a country run by a dictator and read about it.

What is the name of the dictator and the country he controls? How did they come to have power over the citizens of the country?

Have you seen a movie where there was a bad guy who wanted to rule the world?

- What was the name of the movie?
- What did the bad guy do?
- Was there a hero or good person who did something to stop the bully? Describe what happened.

- **Metaphor** -

A metaphor is a figure of speech where a word or phrase is compared to an object or action even though they are not the same.

In Chapter 1, Ethan compares his heart beating to the sound of the bass beat blaring from his friend's brother's car stereo.

Why do you think Ethan's heart beating is like the bass beat from a radio?

Can you find other metaphors/figures of speech in the story? Make a list of the other metaphors you find.

Can you think of a metaphor for how you feel when you are sick or when you miss someone? Write a sentence using that metaphor?

- **Author's Purpose** -

What lesson do you believe the author is trying to teach you in this story? Why is it important? What does the story tell you about how to treat a bully?

- **Inference** -

Blake sends Conner to tell Ethan to meet him after school for a *spelling lesson*. What did Conner mean by that? What do you think Blake wanted to teach Ethan? What did it have to do with spelling?

- **Cause/Effect** -

There are safety measures we take daily to prevent accidents from happening or causing worse harm otherwise.

At one point in the story, Blake refuses to put on his life jacket. What happened as a result?

Can you name a safety measure you might take to prevent something harmful from happening to you?

Make a poster that demonstrates how the safety measure can prevent injuries.

- **Visualizing** -

In Chapter 3, it reads:

I left the classroom and tiptoed along the chain-link fence toward the gate.

"Hey! Where do you think you're going?" Blake's voice echoed off the building.

Now, close your eyes and visualize yourself in the scene.

What do you see? Describe your surroundings.

What do you hear? Feel? Smell?

Can you create a video of the scene with the help of some of your friends?

- **Questioning** -

Think about the story. What would you like to know more about? Begin your sentence with...

I wonder...

- **Determining Importance** -

Which do you believe is more important?

1. Ignoring a problem that might affect you, or
2. Facing the issue and doing something about it?

Why?

Can you remember where Ethan had to make a choice like that? Tell what happened.

- **Predicting** -

What happens next? The book ends with Ethan making friends with Blake. What do you think happens after that? Write another chapter to the book to show what you think happens.

- **Synthesizing** -

Ethan goes to camp for spring break in the story. Have you ever been to camp? There are lots of activities you can do at camp. The book mentions canoeing, making moccasins and

roasting marshmallows to make s'mores as an example of camp activities.

What kind of activities would you want to do if you went to camp?

- **Illustrating** –

Pretend that you are the illustrator or artist for this story. Being a chapter book, there are limited illustrations.

Create one or two more illustrations for parts of the story that do not have a picture. What would the art look like?

- **Summarize** –

Write a paragraph that summarizes the book.

Common Core Standards:

- **RL.1, RL.2, RL.3, RL.6, W.2, W.8, L.5**