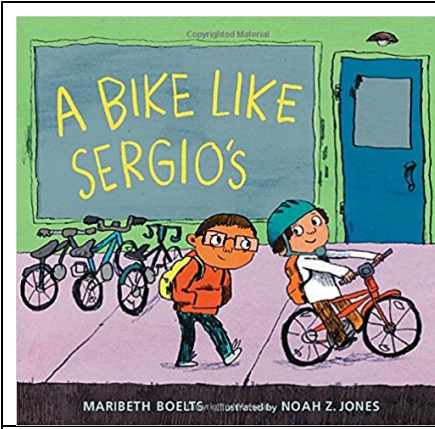


PICTURE BOOK EXTENDER: Read-Aloud Aligned to Common Core

by Lisa Merfeld



A Bike Like Sergio's

Written by Maribeth Boelts
Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones
Written in 2016
GRADES 2-4

SUMMARY OF BOOK:

Ruben thinks everyone has a bike except him. More than anything he wants a bike like his friend Sergio's, but knows his family can't afford to buy him one. When Ruben sees a neighbor at the grocery store drop a dollar bill from her purse, he picks it up and doesn't say a word. Not even when he discovers that it's actually a one hundred dollar bill and more than enough to buy a bike like Sergio's! What will he do? Ruben thinks very hard through this ethical dilemma and in the end decides to do the right thing. This is a book that many children can relate to, making hard choices and realizing what's truly important.

Grade 3 Discussion Questions

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events

“Every kid has a bike but me” is the first line in this book. Based on the line and the picture, what do you think the narrator, Ruben, is feeling and why? How did the sentence make you feel as a reader? Predict what the book might be about.

What is the difference between Sergio's birthday and Ruben's? What does this tell you about their families?

After giving the money back, Ruben says, “I am happy and mixed up, full and empty, of what's right and what's gone.” Describe how you think Ruben is feeling at this point in the story.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

Why does Ruben “squeeze his eyes shut and stay still as a stone” when his father comes to his room to say goodnight? What does that phrase mean?

Ruben says that “rain and tears feel the same” when he can't find the money. Discuss what he is thinking and feeling at this point in the story.

Later in the story, when Ruben is thinking back to when the money seemed lost, the memory is “like a hot blast.” What feeling does that phrase give you as the reader?

Grade 3 Activities

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9

Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series)

Students will compare and contrast *A Bike Like Sergio's* and another book by Maribeth Boelts, called *Those Shoes*. It can be done in the form of a discussion, in writing, or by creating a Venn Diagram.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3.B

Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

Students will write about a time that they had a difficult decision to make. Compare and contrast their story with Ruben's story.