

Literacy Skills Teacher's Guide for

Ida B...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World

by

Katherine Hannigan

Book Information

Katherine Hannigan, Ida B...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World

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Book Level: 5.3

Interest Level: MG

Ida B's happy life changes when her mother begins cancer treatment. Instead of being homeschooled, Ida B must attend public school, and her family must sell part of their apple orchard. Ida B eventually learns to overcome her anger and sadness.

Award: Book Sense Book of the Year Award/Honorees; IRA's Teachers' Choice Award; Josette Frank Children's Book Award; SLJ Best Book

Topics: Community Life, School; Diseases/Disorders, Cancer; Family Life, Mothers; Places, Gardens; Recommended Reading, Children's Literature Choice; Recommended Reading, Junior Library Guild Selection; U.S. States/Regions, Wisconsin

Main Characters

Claire DeLuna a girl from Ida B's class whose family buys land from the Applewoods

Evan Applewood Ida B's father

Ida Applewood Ida B's mother, who is diagnosed with cancer

Ida B Applewood intelligent, spunky nine-year-old girl who lives on an apple orchard with her parents

Ms. Washington Ida B's fourth-grade teacher; a patient woman who helps Ida B deal with all the changes in her life

Ronnie a boy in Ida B's class whom Ida B helps with his math facts

Vocabulary

excruciating tending to inflict or cause keen or intense pain or suffering, mental or physical; painful to the point of being impossible or nearly impossible to bear; tending to torture or torment

foul having been soiled or made dirty; rotten; disgusting; sickening; awful; unpleasant; very bad; not clean; not pure

humiliation total disgrace or embarrassment; shame; dishonor

misery great physical or emotional pain and suffering; extreme unhappiness

multiple having, involving, or consisting of more than one; having several or many parts; manifold

options things from which one can choose or pick; choices

resolution a decision to do something or behave in a certain manner; a decision that settles an issue, question, or difference of opinion; any firm or final decision; firmness of purpose

schedule a list or program of planned activities, events, or appointments and the dates, times, and places on or at which these are set to occur

transformed changed in appearance, nature, or condition; made into or became something else or something different

treatment actions that are meant to heal or relieve illness or injury; medical care given to those who are ill or injured

Synopsis

Ida B Applewood is an intelligent, spunky nine-year-old girl who lives on an apple orchard with her loving, nurturing parents. She has been homeschooled except for a brief time spent in kindergarten, which was a negative experience for her. Her friends are the trees, the brook, and her pets.

Life suddenly changes for Ida B when her mother is diagnosed with cancer. Despite her protests, her parents send her to public school. The family is also forced to sell some of their land, which makes Ida B very angry. Devastated, she makes up her mind to hate school, harden her heart against future hurt, give her parents a cold shoulder, and drive away the new neighbors.

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Contrast

The attentions of her wise and caring teacher, Ms. Washington, help Ida B adjust to all the changes in her life. After a classmate says Ida B is mean, Ida B realizes that she must change and seeks out the advice of Ms. Washington. Ida B apologizes to those she has hurt and finally allows her heart to soften.

Open-Ended Questions

Use these open-ended questions as the basis for class discussions, student presentations, or extended writing assignments.

Inferential Comprehension

Why did Ida B choose not to read the second time Ms. Washington invited her to read aloud to the class?

She thought reading aloud made people think good things about the reader. She realized that she had been acting mean and didn't feel worthy to read. She was almost punishing herself for her bad behavior.

Constructing Meaning

Ida B described the feeling she got from reading aloud to the class as a "...warm glow that was in my belly and arms and my legs and my head and wouldn't go away." She really enjoyed it, and it made her feel good about herself. Have you ever done anything that made you feel like that? What was it?

Answers will vary.

Teachable Skills

Understanding Characterization Understanding
Characterization

Recognizing Cause and Effect Recognizing
Cause & Effect

Deriving Word or Phrase Meaning Deriving
Word or Phrase Meaning

Comparing and Contrasting Compare &