

READING COMPREHENSION NOVEL STUDIES - BEVERLY CLEARY

OVERVIEW

A series of five exciting and interesting titles provide a framework for this new approach to reading. Comprehension is the main focus, with multiple choice questions designed to ensure students understand what they are reading. The titles include:

- 1) Ramona the Pest**
- 2) Ramona Quimby, Age 8**
- 3) The Mouse and the Motorcycle**
- 4) Runaway Ralph**
- 5) Ellen Tebbits**

The high interest - low vocabulary format of these novels is perfect for reluctant readers and is sure to keep students motivated to read. For the teacher, flexibility is key, with students being assigned novels to read individually, in small groups or as a class.

SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES

A number of possible strategies describing how these units might be used in the classroom is given. These include:

- 1) Whole Class Instruction**
- 2) Individualized Approach**
- 3) Small Group Instruction**
- 4) Listening Skills Test**

A possible reward system to help motivate student reading is also given.

STORY SUMMARIES

A synopsis and bibliographic information for each of the novels has been included for teacher reference.

ANSWER KEY

Answer keys for each novel are provided.

RAMONA THE PEST

Bibliographic Information

Beverly Cleary, Avon Camelot, c1968.

Story Synopsis

Ramona the Pest liked kindergarten, but things often went wrong. To show Miss Binney what a good job she was doing on the first day of school when she was supposed to be resting, she snored, but, unfortunately, this made the rest of the class giggle. She liked a shy boy named Davy, so she chased him daily to try to kiss him, but this resulted in accidentally tearing a button off his shirt. She admired Henry Huggins, the traffic boy, but annoyed him by imitating him when crossing the street and embarrassed him by announcing that she was going to marry him after he pulled her out of some mud.

Ramona's most serious problem arose on a day that should have been special because she lost her first tooth. When Susan refused to admire the gap in her teeth, Ramona retaliated by playing with Susan's hair. To make things worse, Susan called Ramona a pest, and Ramona hated being called a pest. Miss Binney asked Ramona if she would stop pulling Susan's hair, but Ramona was not ready to comply, so she was sent home. This was a disaster because she really liked Miss Binney and kindergarten, and now she was convinced that Miss Binney did not like her. She found that staying home from school was not fun because she was not allowed to watch TV. Things finally were set right when Miss Binney sent Ramona a note asking when she would be coming back to kindergarten.

Suggested Grade Levels

Children from grades two to four will enjoy this book.



ISBN: 978-1-55319-091-2

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Chapter 1 "Ramona's Great Day"

1. Why didn't Ramona want to walk to school with Mary Jane?
 (a) Mary Jane is mean to her sometimes.
 (b) Mary Jane will run away when she sees her friends.
 (c) Mary Jane will act as if Ramona is a baby.
2. Which description fits Howie?
 (a) He was noisy.
 (b) He was in a hurry.
 (c) He never got excited.
 (d) He was fun to be with.
3. What did Ramona want to know about the story Miss Binney read?
 (a) How did Mike Mulligan go to the bathroom when he was digging the basement?
 (b) How long did it take to dig the basement?
 (c) Could Ramona draw a picture about the story?
4. Why wasn't Howie excited about kindergarten?
 (a) He didn't get to be the wake-up fairy.
 (b) He didn't get a present from the teacher.
 (c) There wasn't any dirt to dig in.
 (d) He didn't get to be "it" in the Gray Duck game.
5. What did Ramona like about kindergarten?
 (a) She liked being the wake-up fairy.
 (b) She liked having her own cupboard.
 (c) She liked the surprise that Miss Binney gave her.
6. Why was Susan shrieking in the Gray Duck game?
 (a) Ramona pulled her hair.
 (b) Susan fell and hurt her knee.
 (c) Susan was excited because she was "it."



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6. Why did Davy say his mother was going to be mad at Ramona?
 (a) Ramona grabbed his shirt and the buttons popped off.
 (b) Ramona kept chasing Davy every day.
 (c) When Ramona chased Davy, he fell down and skinned his knee.
7. What did this chapter tell you about Ramona's character?
 (a) She does not always do what she was supposed to do.
 (b) She is a bully.
 (c) She does not care what anyone thinks of her.
8. Why does Ramona watch for unfair situations?
 (a) She wants to be a lawyer when she grows up.
 (b) She has been the youngest in her family and in the neighbourhood.
 (c) She wants the teacher to like her.

Chapter 4 "The Substitute"



TRUE OR FALSE

1. Ramona stepped off the curb just to see what Henry Huggins, the traffic boy, would do.
2. Ramona admired Henry Huggins because he was a traffic boy and he delivered papers.
3. Howie was gloomier than usual on the way to school because he knew there was going to be a substitute teacher.
4. Ramona decided that she would not go into the kindergarten room because the substitute teacher would be mad at her for bugging Henry.
5. Beverly Cleary thinks that kindergarten children worry about wearing the right kind of clothes to school.
6. Ramona was grateful to Howie for warning her about Willa Jean.
7. Ramona and Howie did not find it easy to cross streets by themselves.
8. Ramona felt that her day began badly because Henry had gotten mad at her.

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Chapter 9 "Rainy Sunday"

1. Why was Beezus crying?
 (a) She had failed the math test.
 (b) She had not been invited to the party.
 (c) She had a fight with Ramona and was sent to her room.
 (d) Her father made her clean up her room instead of watching television.
 (e) She wasn't allowed to go to a sleepover.
2. What did Ramona worry about? She worried that
 (a) Her mother would lose her job.
 (b) Her father might get frozen to death.
 (c) The class would make fun of her.
3. Who paid for the Quimbys' restaurant meal? It was
 (a) Mr. Quimby.
 (b) Mrs. Quimby, because she had a job.
 (c) A stranger.
 (d) Ramona and Beezus because they had saved up their birthday money.



PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. Did you enjoy this book? Why or why not?

2. There are more books about Ramona. Would you like to read them? _____
3. Beverly Cleary has also written books that are not about Ramona. One of her books is about a boy who gets into a lot of mischief. It is called *Otis Spafford*. Two of her books are about a mouse who likes to ride a motorcycle. Are you going to look for more books to read by Beverly Cleary? _____

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Chapter 1 "The New Guests"

- Where does this story take place? It takes place in
 (a) Ontario.
 (b) Massachusetts.
 (c) California.
 (d) Montana.
- What does Mrs. Gridley think of the hotel?
 (a) It is quaint and charming.
 (b) It is dreadful and spooky.
 (c) It is a good place to stay for a while.
- Why does the boy like the hotel?
 (a) He thinks mice live in it.
 (b) He met a nice boy on the way in.
 (c) He gets a room to himself.
- How old was the bellboy? He was at least
 (a) 14.
 (b) 16.
 (c) 20.
 (d) 40.
 (e) 60.
- Why does Mrs. Gridley think there are mice in the hotel?
 (a) She heard a squeaking noise.
 (b) The hotel is old and what she smells makes her think of mice.
 (c) She saw Keith looking at the knothole.
- The boy knew that he should not interrupt his parents when they were arguing. This shows that he
 (a) Gets into trouble a lot.
 (b) Has good manners.
- How much time do the Gridleys have for their holiday? They have
 (a) One week.
 (b) Two weeks.
 (c) Three weeks.



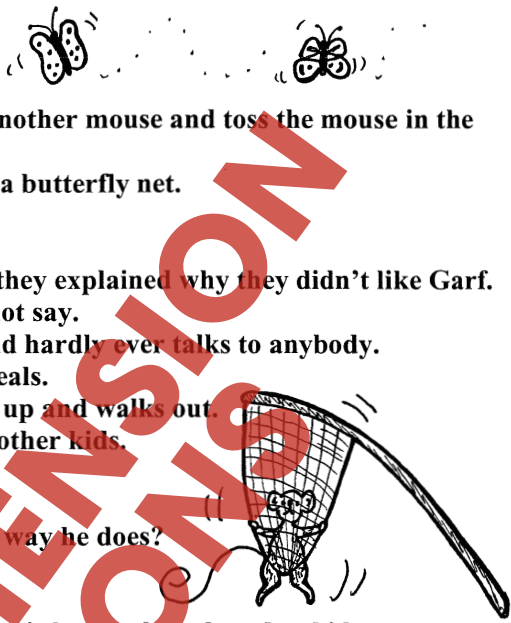
Chapter 1 "Ralph Hears a Distant Bugle"

- What happened in this chapter?
 (a) Ralph found a toy bugle and used it as a horn on his motorcycle.
 (b) A man with a bugle came to the hotel. A boy named Garf was with him.
 (c) Uncle Lester lectured Ralph about the way he was living.
- Why was Garf unhappy?
 (a) He had to practise playing the bugle all the time.
 (b) The man with the bugle had kidnapped him.
 (c) He had to go to camp.
 (d) He wasn't allowed to watch TV.
- Ralph's mother said Ralph should give the little mice a ride on his motorcycle. Ralph doesn't want to. Choose the best thing for him to do.
 (a) He should not listen. He should just ride away on the bike before his mother can do anything.
 (b) He should say that his mother isn't fair and that it's his bike.
 (c) He should say, "May we discuss this? Maybe we can come up with an idea that will seem fair to both of us."
- Ralph is the only mouse who has a motorcycle, but he has not let anyone else ride it. Do you think he is being selfish?
 (a) Yes.
 (b) No.
- Which was Ralph's favourite room in the Inn? His favourite room was the
 (a) Bar.
 (b) Lobby.
 (c) Kitchen.
- Why don't Ralph's little brothers and sisters go into the lobby very often?
 (a) They are afraid of the noise that the revolving door makes.
 (b) They are afraid of the stuffed deer heads on the walls.
 (c) They think that a cat lives there.
- What is Ralph's mother like? She is
 (a) Strict.
 (b) Mean.
 (c) Fearful.



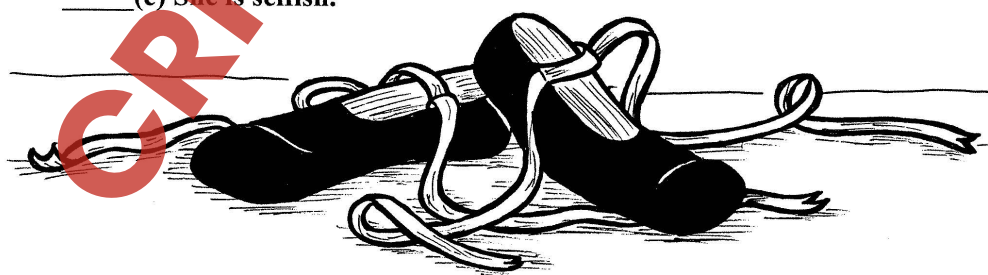
Chapter 3 "An Educational Toy"

- What happened in this chapter?
 (a) Ralph saw the cats catch another mouse and toss the mouse in the air.
 (b) Garf caught a butterfly in a butterfly net.
 (c) Ralph was put in a cage.
- The girls had a lot of reasons when they explained why they didn't like Garf. Pick one thing below that they did not say.
 (a) He just stays by himself and hardly ever talks to anybody.
 (b) He won't talk or sing at meals.
 (c) After meals, Garf just gets up and walks out.
 (d) Garf always makes fun of other kids.
 (e) Garf is a funny name.
- Why do you think Garf behaves the way he does?
 (a) He is mean.
 (b) He is shy.
 (c) He is stuck-up and thinks he is better than the other kids.
 (d) He is a bully and he didn't want to go to camp.
- Why didn't Ralph decide to live with the gopher for a while?
 (a) There wasn't enough room in the tunnel for both of them.
 (b) The gopher told him to get out.
 (c) The gopher's tunnel did not look as cosy as the hotel he used to live in.
- For a while, Ralph is held "ignominiously." If you look in a dictionary, you will find that ignominiously means
 (a) In a cruel way.
 (b) In a careless way.
 (c) Accidentally.
 (d) In a way that causes shame or disgrace.
- Where did Ralph hope to be kept? He hoped he would be put in a
 (a) Boy's pocket.
 (b) Granary full of wheat.
 (c) Kitchen cupboard.
 (d) Shoe box.
 (e) Cheese factory.

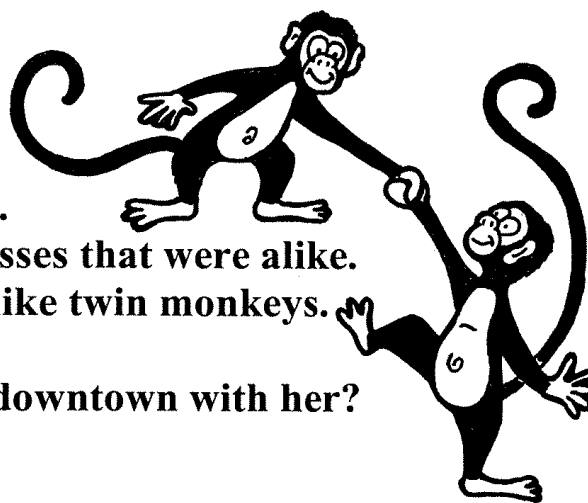


Chapter 1 "Ellen's Secret"

- What was Ellen's terrible secret?
 (a) She had an ugly mole on her back.
 (b) She was wearing woolen underwear.
 (c) She was too shy to change in front of other girls.
- What happened in this chapter?
 (a) Ellen found out Austine had a mole too.
 (b) Austine collided with Otis on purpose.
 (c) Otis found Ellen in the closet.
- Why was Ellen's hair scraggly on the left side of her face?
 (a) She had slept on that side when her hair was wet.
 (b) She twisted her hair while she was reading.
 (c) She forgot to brush her hair in the morning.
 (d) The wind messed it up.
- Why didn't Ellen have a cat or a dog for a pet?
 (a) Ellen was allergic to animals.
 (b) Her mother thought animals made a mess.
 (c) Her father said she had to wait until she was old enough and responsible enough to look after a pet herself.
- How did Austine annoy Ellen?
 (a) Austine kept talking about how things were better in California.
 (b) Austine was untidy and Ellen almost tripped over Austine's shoes.
 (c) Austine laughed when Otis imitated Ellen.
- What did you learn about Austine's character in this chapter?
 (a) She isn't afraid to stick up for people she likes.
 (b) She is a bully.
 (c) She is selfish.



Chapter 5 “The Twins”



- Why is this chapter called “The Twins”?
 - (a) The new girls who came were twins.
 - (b) Austine and Ellen tried to wear dresses that were alike.
 - (c) Otis said Austine and Ellen looked like twin monkeys.
- Why did Ellen’s mother say Ellen had to go downtown with her?
 - (a) Ellen had to go to the dentist.
 - (b) Ellen needed new shoes.
 - (c) They were going to pick out patterns and materials for new dresses.

Chapter 6 “The Substitute Rat”



- What happened in this chapter?
 - (a) Ellen and Austine both were rats in the “Pied Piper” play.
 - (b) Otis was a substitute rat and he almost wrecked the play.
 - (c) Austine and Linda are best friends.
- Why were Ellen’s cheeks flaming?
 - (a) She was sick with a fever.
 - (b) She was embarrassed and ashamed.
 - (c) Austine had slapped her.



Chapter 7 “Dusty Erasers”

- What happened in this chapter?
 - (a) Ellen tore Austine’s dress.
 - (b) Austine untied the sash on Ellen’s dress.
 - (c) Austine took more erasers so Ellen slapped her.
- Ellen knew that she should say she was sorry to Austine. After a few weeks went by
 - (a) Ellen felt it was easier to say she was sorry.
 - (b) It didn’t get any easier to say sorry. In fact, Ellen felt she couldn’t do it.
 - (c) Austine saw Otis teasing Ellen, and she made him stop. Then the girls made up.

ELLEN TEBBITS

Answer Key

1	(1) b	(2) b	(3) b	(4) b	(5) a	(6) a
2	(1) a	(2) c				
3	(1) c	(2) c				
4	(1) c					
5	(1) b	(2) c				
6	(1) c	(2) b				
7	(1) a	(2) b				
Final Questions:	(1) a	(2) b				

of Questions = 19

ANSWER KEY