

Summer Reading for Incoming 3rd Graders

You may choose ONE of the two books listed below to read this summer. There will be an accompanying packet that should be completed in full and handed in on the first day of the 2023-2024 school year. Packets are available for pick-up in the Main Office.

***How to be Cool in the Third Grade* by Betsey Duffey (GR Level N/600 Lexile), available on Amazon or Scholastic**

"Robbie is old enough to know that surviving school depends on one very important thing: knowing what's cool. But what is cool in the third grade? he asks himself. He's got some ideas: Cool is a grown-up name like "Rob" instead of "Robbie." Cool is walking to the bus stop by yourself, and not having your mother there with a camera and a kiss goodbye. Cool is jeans and a t-shirt – and definitely not Super Heroes underwear. Robbie knows he has work to do in the cool department, but he's forgotten about one thing: Bo Haney, the school bully.

Bo is big, and he's been in the third grade for a long, long time. More importantly, when he gives a nickname, it sticks. And all it takes is one lurch of the school bus to land Robbie right in Bo's lap, and land him the nickname "Baby Wobbie." Now Robbie is convinced he's in for the worst year ever. But third grade can be full of surprises, as he finds out, not the least of which is his own resourcefulness. Young readers will cheer Robbie's ultimate success in this gentle, realistic chapter book." (from Scholastic.com)

***Third Grade Angels* by Jerry Spinelli (GR Level P/390 Lexile), available on Amazon or Scholastic**

"The Long-Awaited Prequel to the Bestseller *Fourth Grade Rats*.

George, aka "Suds," has just entered third grade, and he's heard the rhyme about "first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats," but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded "the halo" – which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be the first to earn the halo, but he's finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated. Does he have to be good even outside of school? (Does he have to be nice to his annoying little sister?) And if Mrs. Simms doesn't actually see him doing a good deed, does it even count?

A warm, funny return to elementary school from master storyteller Spinelli." (from Scholastic.com)

Third Grade Angels

by Jerry Spinelli

A Novel Study by:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 1 - 3

Multiple Choice

1. According to the rhyme in Chapter 1, what were Suds and his friends known as in the first grade?

- (a) Babies.
- (b) Cats.
- (c) Angels.
- (d) Rats.

2. What prize will Suds and his friends earn for doing their best in third grade?

- (a) A trophy.
- (b) A homework pass.
- (c) A hula hoop.
- (d) A halo.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 1, the third graders discuss what an "angel" is. List at least two of the qualities that they mention angels should possess.

Long Answer

4. In Chapter 2, the third graders discuss what they can do to earn their prizes. What are some of their ideas?

**A Little
Extra!**

How do you feel about Suds's classmate, Joey? Do you think Joey will be a good friend for Suds? Why or why not?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 7 - 9

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 7, why does Mrs. Simms have eleven apples on her desk?

- (a) The class is making applesauce.
- (b) The class is making apple pie.
- (c) The class is having apples for a snack.
- (d) The class brought in the apples as gifts.

2. At the end of Chapter 8, Suds feels proud because:

- (a) He earned the highest score on a math test.
- (b) He behaved perfectly all day at school.
- (c) Judy Billings told him that she likes him too.
- (d) Mrs. Simms gave him the first halo!

Short Answer

3. What is the "really scary question" about the angel behavior that comes to Suds at the end of Chapter 8? How does his mother respond to the question?

Long Answer

4. In Chapter 8, what nice thing does Suds do on the playground? What good thing does he do at lunchtime?

A Little Extra!

Imagine that you are Suds. Make a list of at least three reasons why you believe that you deserve the first halo. What is one reason why you might NOT deserve the first halo? Explain.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 13 - 15

Multiple Choice

1. In Chapter 13, what does Suds learn about Darren Tapp?

- (a) He has a dog.
- (b) He is still in the running for the first halo.
- (c) He is out of the running for the first halo.
- (d) He also has a crush on Judy Billings.

2. When Suds delivers his letter to Mrs. Simms, what does he notice is on her desk?

- (a) A green apple.
- (b) The halo.
- (c) Another letter.
- (d) A notebook.

Short Answer

3. Explain why Suds does not want to go to school in Chapter 15.

Long Answer

4. In Chapter 14, why does Joey call Suds's mother a joker?

**A Little
Extra!**

At the end of Chapter 15, which student wins the first halo of the year?
Is this surprising to you? Why or why not?

Date: _____

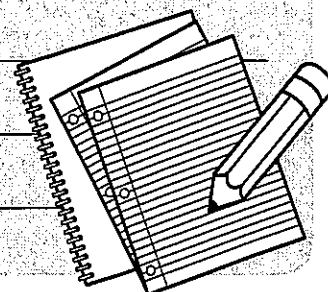
To be *persuasive* is to be good at convincing people to think a certain way.

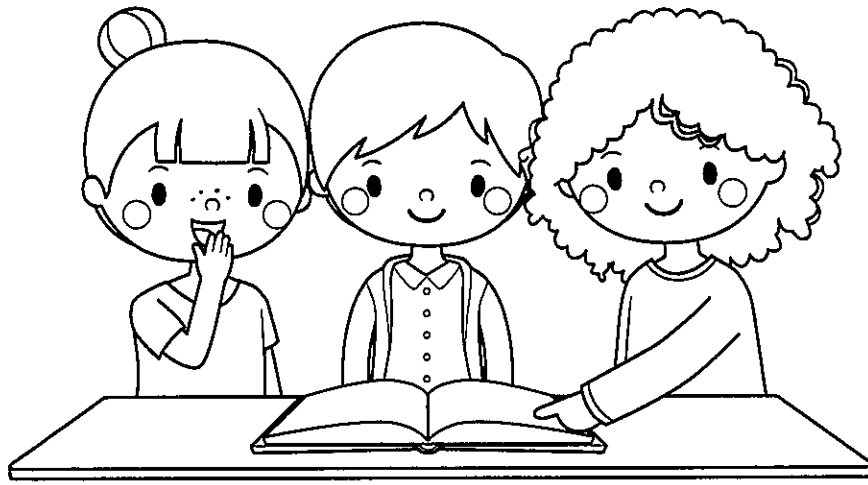
With this passage, what do you hope to persuade your readers to do?

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11

Don't read this book!

[illegible]



How to Be Cool in the Third Grade

by Betsy Duffey

A Novel Study by:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters 1 - 2

Multiple Choice

1. What is the first thing that Robbie writes on his "How to be Cool" list?

- (a) "Throw out schoolbag."
- (b) "Get a haircut."
- (c) "Learn a new language."
- (d) "Get rid of the name *Robbie*."

2. What is the second thing that Robbie writes on his "How to be Cool" list?

- (a) "Get jeans."
- (b) "Wear sunglasses everywhere."
- (c) "Make new friends."
- (d) "Refuse to do homework."

Short Answer

3. Why does Robbie hide his new ruler under his mattress?

Long Answer

4. How does Robbie prepare for the first day of third grade?

A Little
Extra!

Do you think it is silly for Robbie to worry about being cool? Why or why not?

Understanding the Story

Chapters 5 - 7

Multiple Choice

1. What does Robbie change number one on his "How to be Cool" list to?

- (a) "Get rid of the last name York."
- (b) "Get rid of the name Wobbie."
- (c) "Get rid of the name Rob."
- (d) "None of the above."

2. What does Robbie change number two on his "How to be Cool" list to?

- (a) "Get a new hat."
- (b) "Get new sneakers."
- (c) "Get new jeans."
- (d) "Get new underwear."

Short Answer

3. How does Robbie feel when he first hears he will be a Book Buddy? How does he feel when he hears who he will be partnered with? Why do his feelings change?

Long Answer

4. Describe three things that make Robbie unhappy on his first day of school.

A Little
Extra!

Robbie explains that twenty minutes can seem wonderfully short or terribly long. Describe something you might do to pass twenty "wonderfully short" minutes. Describe something you might do to pass twenty "terribly long" minutes.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Understanding the Story

Chapters II - III

Multiple Choice

1. Right before starting Book Buddies, what does Robbie begin to write?

- (a) His last will and testament.
- (b) A letter to Ms. Williams.
- (c) A new "How to Be Cool" list.
- (d) A note to give to Doug.

2. How does Bo help Robbie complete his "How to Be Cool" list?

- (a) Bo gives Robbie his old jeans.
- (b) Bo admits that superhero underwear are cool.
- (c) Bo uses a red pen to cross out everything on Robbie's list.
- (d) Bo changes Robbie's name to "Rob".

Short Answer

3. In the end, what does Robbie realize being cool is all about?

Long Answer

4. Why does Ms. Williams choose Robbie to be Bo's book buddy?

A Little
Extra!

What have you learned about being "cool" from this story? Do you think it is an important lesson for other children your age to learn?
