



# Flipped

by Wendelin Van Draanen

## Teacher's Guide

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## Synopsis

### Diving Under

The first chapter is recounted from the point of view of second-grader Bryce Loski. His family has just moved into the neighborhood. Bryce is astonished when the feisty, friendly girl across the street, a second grader named Juli Baker, climbs into the moving van and tries to help them move the boxes. Ever since then, Bryce had tried to avoid Juli, whom he considers an embarrassment. Now the kids are in the 6th grade. To convince Juli that he does not like her and will never date her, Bryce asks Shelly Stalls out on a date, but she dumps him after a week. Bryce is not above cheating from Juli's papers, even though she infuriates him by sniffing his hair.

### Flipped

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped for his baby blue eyes. Juli hates Shelly because Shelly is mean and shallow. Juli yearns to get her first kiss, and it must be from Bryce.

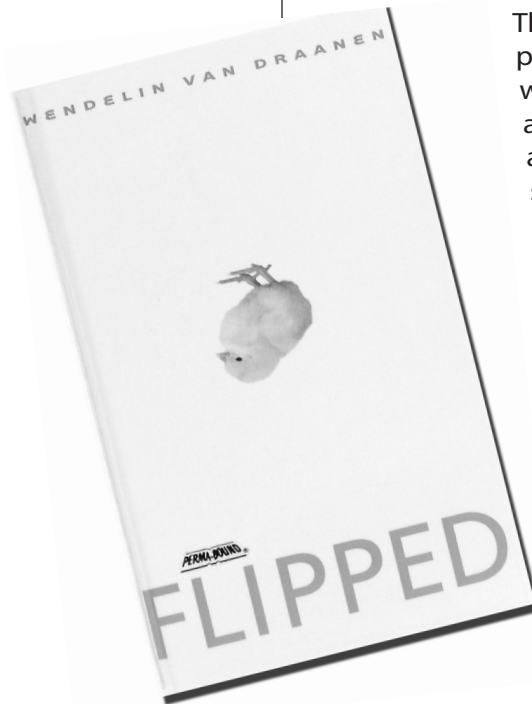
### Buddy, Beware!

This chapter is recounted from Bryce's point of view. Seventh grade has brought many changes in Bryce's life; the most noticeable one is that his maternal grandfather Chester Duncan has come to live with the family. Since the recent death of his wife Renee, Chet has been listless and he spends most of the day staring out of the window. Bryce is angry because the Bakers' yard is a mess, as Juli's father Robert spends all his free time painting

landscapes. Juli loves the huge sycamore tree in the neighborhood. She often climbs its branches and sits there admiring the world. One day, however, men arrive to cut down the tree. Juli climbs the tree to prevent the destruction. Juli's protest makes the *Mayfield Times*. Chet admires her a great deal, but Bryce thinks she is an embarrassment. After the incident with the tree, Juli rides her bike to school rather than taking the bus.

### The Sycamore Tree

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. Robert is a mason who loves to paint. A deep-feeling artist, he tries to explain to Juli how a painting becomes more than the sum of its parts. Juli finally understands this notion after she discovers the exhilaration of sitting high in her beloved sycamore tree. We see this when she says: "The view from my sycamore was more than rooftops and clouds and wind and colors combined." Juli recounts how she climbed the tree to save it, calling to the other kids to help her, but they refused. After the incident, Juli's father presents her with a picture of the tree, a sunrise, and a girl. This gift helps Juli heal.



### Brawk-Brawk-Brawk!

This chapter is recounted from Bryce's point of view. He sees Matt and Mike's snake eating eggs and is repulsed. After raising chickens for a science-fair experiment, Juli can't bear to part with "her girls" and so begins an egg business. She gives some eggs to Bryce's family for two years. Bryce's father asks Bryce if Juli has any roosters. Since Bryce is too scared of Juli to ask her, he and his friend Garrett spy on Juli's yard, giving Bryce's father the opportunity to humiliate him at dinner. After each delivery, Bryce throws the eggs out because he is afraid they are diseased. One day Juli catches Bryce throwing out the eggs and explodes

at his cruelty. She is also angry because she has lost over a hundred dollars by giving him eggs that she could sell.

**The Eggs**

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. Her dog Champ has died. Juli recalls how they got him and how he urinated all over the house, earning him the nickname "Mystery Pisser," the name that Matt and Mike adopt for their band. Juli next recalls how her father helped her build an incubator, hatch the eggs, and keep the chickens. Bryce tells Juli that her house is a disgrace and he is afraid to eat her eggs because they are surely diseased.

**Get a Grip, Man**

This chapter is recounted from Bryce's point of view. Bryce sees his grandfather helping Juli spruce up her family's filthy yard. Bryce finally apologizes to Juli for his unkind remark. Chet tells the family that the Bakers rent their house but their landlord refuses to maintain the yard. Chet also tells them that the Bakers have little money because they are faithfully supporting Robert's retarded brother David. Bryce's mother begins to cry when she hears the story of David, because Bryce, like David, was born with the umbilical cord around his neck. She realizes that had things gone just a little differently at birth, Bryce would be retarded. Bryce goes for a walk with his grandfather, who tells him: "Every once in a while you'll find someone iridescent, and when you do, nothing will ever compare." The situation now flips: Juli's enthusiastic infatuation wanes just as Bryce's begins to kick in.

**The Yard**

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. She learns that her family has long supported David so he does not have to go into government care. The family is loving and united on this, as they are in all matters. Juli and Chet enjoy working in the yard together, and Chet tells Juli that she reminds him of his late wife. Chet also tells Juli to look beyond Bryce's glossy surface, implying that Bryce is shallow.

**Looming Large and Smelly**

This chapter is recounted from Bryce's point of view. His mother has decided to invite the Bakers for a formal dinner, even though her husband mocks them and her plan. Infatuated with Juli,

Bryce carries her newspaper picture around with him. Bryce does not stand up to his friend Garrett when Garrett mocks the Bakers.

**The Visit**

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. Juli accompanies her father to see her uncle David on his 40th birthday. Robert brings David a puzzle and a pinwheel. They go out for ice cream and David throws a tantrum when his cone drops. Robert handles the situation smoothly. Later, he tells Juli that David lived with them before the kids were born but he had too many special needs they could not meet. Juli overhears Bryce's conversation with Garrett.

**The Serious Willies**

This chapter is recounted from Bryce's point of view. During the dinner party, Bryce realizes that his father is shallow, materialistic, and cruel, while Mr. Baker has integrity. Lynetta plays Mike and Matt's heavy metal music at dinner. Bryce's father is cruel to them, but they are polite and easy-going. After dinner, Juli apologizes to Bryce and thanks him for dinner. Bryce has flipped: he no longer finds the Bakers embarrassing; now he realizes they are kind, loving, and considerate. They are the opposite of his shallow, materialistic family.

**The Dinner**

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. She realizes that her father is proud of his sons' music. After dinner, the Bakers sit down over left-over pie and enjoy each other's company.

**Flipped**

This chapter is recounted from Bryce's point of view. He is chosen to be a "basket boy," auctioned to the highest bidder as a lunch date, part of the Booster Club's annual fund raising drive. Juli bids on Jon Trulock and wins him. Shelly and Miranda team up to win Bryce for a record-breaking \$122.50 to make sure that "Jumbo Jenny" doesn't get him. Even though Bryce is now having lunch with the two hottest girls on campus, he is miserable because he is enthralled by Juli's uniqueness. While Shelly and Miranda fight over Bryce, he tries to kiss Juli but she breaks away from him. At home, Chet tells Bryce that he has changed, becoming a caring and authentic person, now able to appreciate Julie.

**The Basket Boys**

This chapter is recounted from Juli's point of view. When the class votes on who should be chosen as basket boys, Juli votes for Jon Trulock because he is so nice. On the way to school, Mrs. Stueby gives Juli the money she owes her for the eggs. Juli uses this money to win Jon so he will not be hurt that he wasn't chosen. To win Juli's love, Bryce plants a new sycamore tree in her yard. Juli decides there is more to Bryce than she thought and decides to give him a second chance.

## Author Sketch

As with many writers, Wendelin Van Draanen was a shy child. "My parents immigrated to the United States, so there was always something 'foreign' about our family," Van Draanen explained in an interview. "I never really felt like I fit in unless I was with my family," she added. She remained shy throughout her teens, and did not even have her first date until her senior prom. Perhaps this was the impetus for her popular "Sammy Keyes" mystery series for teens. Sammy—whose given name is Samantha—is the opposite of Van Draanen. The teen detective is an outgoing girl who gets into trouble; Van Draanen was an introverted child who followed the rules.



But there is no doubt that Van Draanen took some inspiration from her childhood experiences in Chicago, Illinois, as she created Sammy. Van Draanen has two brothers and "did a lot of 'boy stuff,'" as she commented. "We spied on the neighbors, played in the school yard across the street—roller-skating, kickball, dodgeball, hide 'n' seek—we also loved to go swimming at the Plunge (community pool) and ride bikes."

A serious, superb student, Van Draanen anticipated a stellar career. "My parents were both chemists, so I was sure I'd become something scientific," she once said. "I really wanted to be a singer, but was much too shy to put that forward, so I stuck to science and math. I certainly did not want to be a writer!" But her plans took an unexpected turn.

When the family business was destroyed in a fire and her father died six months later, Van Draanen left college to help out. To relieve some anxiety over the family's economic woes, Van Draanen wrote about the fire. She enjoyed writing very much, but still never imagined that she would become a writer. Instead, she finished college and took a job teaching high school computer science. Nonetheless, she continued writing. By the 1990s, Van Draanen had married and begun a family of her own in California.

When her husband gave her a copy of Ray Bradbury's novel *Dandelion Wine*, Van Draanen decided it would be fun to write a book like it about her childhood. The result was *How I Survived Being a Girl*, published in 1997. A *Publishers Weekly* reviewer called the book an "energetic first novel" and "a sunny, funny look at a girl with a smart mouth and scabby knees."

Buoyed by the positive reviews, Van Draanen began writing a teen-detective story that would evolve into a popular and much-praised series. The first of these arrived in 1998 with *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*. In the *Horn Book*, critic Martha V. Parravano described Van Draanen's protagonist as "one tough, smart, resourceful seventh grader." Van Draanen followed the success of the first Sammy Keyes book with a second that same year, *Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man*. The critical and popular reception were equally positive and a series was born.

The success of her writing career led Van Draanen to give up her teaching job in 2000. She plans to continue writing for adolescents. "Growing up's not easy. . . . It's my goal to get kids through those awkward years and onto adulthood safely. The choices they make in the areas of honesty, convictions, friendships, and compassion now will affect them their entire lives," she explained.

## Critic's Corner

*Flipped* received excellent reviews. For example, the *Publishers Weekly* critic wrote: "Although the relationship between Bryce's grandfather and his own family remains a bit sketchy, his growing bond with Juli is credibly and poignantly developed. A couple of coincidences are a bit convenient, but

Van Draanen succeeds in presenting two entirely authentic perspectives on the same incidents without becoming repetitious. With a charismatic leading lady kids will flip over, a compelling dynamic between the two narrators and a resonant ending (including a clever double entendre on the title), this novel is a great deal larger than the sum of its parts."

Jennifer Hubert, reviewing the novel for Amazon.com, was equally enthusiastic: "With *Flipped*, mystery author Wendelin Van Draanen has taken a break from her Sammy Keyes series, and the result is flipping fantastic. Bryce and Juli's rants and raves about each other ring so true that teen readers will quickly identify with at least one of these hilarious feuding egos, if not both. A perfect introduction to the adolescent war between the sexes."

Connie Tyrrell Burns, reviewing the novel for *School Library Journal*, wrote: "Van Draanen has another winner in this eighth-grade 'he-said, she-said' romance... Well-rounded secondary characters keep subplots rolling in this funny, fast-paced, excellent winner."

Frances Bradburn, writing in *Booklist*, said: "The author of the popular Sammy Keyes mysteries proves herself just as good at writing a charming romance... this is a wry character study, a romance with substance and subtlety."

## Van Draanen's Other Works

*How I Survived Being a Girl* (1997)  
*Swear to Howdy* (2003)  
*Attack of the Tagger* (2004)  
*Secret Identity* (2004)  
*Meet the Gecko* (2005)  
*Enemy Spy* (2005)  
*Runaway* (2006)

## "Sammy Keyes" Series

*Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief* (1998)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man* (1998)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy* (1999)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Runaway Elf* (1999)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Curse of Moustache Mary* (2000)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy* (2001)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Search for Snake Eyes* (2002)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception* (2003)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Psycho Kitty Queen* (2004)  
*Sammy Keyes and the Dead Giveaway* (2005)

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*Horn Book*, July-August, 1998, Martha V. Parravano, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*, pp. 498-499; November-December, 1998, Martha V. Parravano, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man*, p. 743.  
*Kirkus Reviews*, December 1, 1996, review of *How I Survived Being a Girl*.  
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*San Luis Obispo Tribune*, September 27, 1999.  
*School Library Journal*, February, 1997, Kathleen Odean, review of *How I Survived Being a Girl*, p. 106; July, 1998, p. 100; September, 1998, Lynda Short, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man*, p. 211; July, 1999, Jennifer Ralston, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy*, p. 101; September, 1999, Linda Bindner, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Runaway Elf*, p. 229; August, 2000, p. 190; February, 2001, Wanda Meyers-Hines, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy*, p. 122; March, 2001, Sarah Flowers, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief*, p. 87.  
*Voice of Youth Advocates*, April, 2000, Beth E. Anderson, review of *Sammy Keyes and the Sisters of Mercy*, pp. 40-41.

## General Objectives

1. To appreciate the novel's structure
2. To understand the novel's title
3. To analyze the main characters
4. To see what function the minor characters serve
5. To recognize the novel's theme
6. To understand the novel's main symbols
7. To appreciate the author's use of humor
8. To find examples of integrity and courage
9. To discuss the novel's setting
10. To describe the author's style

## Specific Objectives

1. To realize that events are told from alternating points of view, Bryce's and Juli's.
2. To delve into the different layers of meaning of the word "flipped," including slang
3. To appreciate Juli for her unique individuality
4. To see that Bryce, like his father Rick, is shallow and materialistic, overly influenced by peer pressure to fit in
5. To recognize the effect and value of Chet's wisdom
6. To probe the relationship between Bryce and Juli
7. To compare and contrast the Baker and the Loski families
8. To understand the symbolism of the sycamore tree
9. To consider the lessons the book teaches about having an open mind, being an individual, and taking responsibility for your actions
10. To determine if the novel accurately reflects life among 8th graders

## Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Wendelin Van Draanen's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

**Point of View:** the position from which a story is told. In *Flipped*, Van Draanen narrates chapters from alternating points of view. The first chapter is told from Bryce Loski's point of view, the second chapter from Juli Baker's point of view, the third chapter from Bryce's point of view, the fourth from Juli's, and so on. As a result, readers see the same events

from alternative viewpoints. This "he said, she said" technique shows both sides of the situations and helps readers see how Bryce and Juli mature.

**Typography:** the arrangement of words on a page. Van Draanen uses unusual typography in the Table of Contents to provide a guideline for the changes in point of view. The chapters told from Bryce's point of view align with the left margin. Further, they are linked with a rule (a line) running vertically down the left margin as well as dashes that connect to the rule. The chapters told from Juli's point of view, in contrast, are indented about an inch under Bryce's chapters. This typography serves as a guide to readers.

**Humor:** created when parts of a work of literature are amusing. Van Draanen is known for her skillful use of teenage humor and *Flipped* is no exception. For example, on pages 65-66, Juli explains how the family adopted their dog Champ. She also describes how soon after Champ arrived, Trina noticed a strange odor in the house. Trina calls it "Eau de Champ" but everyone else calls it the "Mystery Smell." Juli describes the scene this way: "And one day my mother cracked the case. And she might have cracked Champs' skull as well if my dad hadn't come to the rescue and shooed him outside." That's because Champ is indeed the source of the foul odor: he is dribbling urine all over the house. The humor builds when the kids dub Champ the "Mystery Pisser." Matt and Mike adopt the name for their band, which completes the joke.

## The Importance of Setting

The setting is unimportant in *Flipped*. Neither the town nor the date is specified. The novel could take place in any middle class neighborhood that has homes with yards and large deciduous trees, which gives the story its universality.

## Cross-Curricular Sources

### Novels

Avi, *The Secret School*

Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* and *James and the Giant Peach*

Julie Dannenberg, *First Day Jitters*

Kate Dicomillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*  
Ben Mikaleson, *Touching Spirit Bear*  
Stephanie Tolan, *Surviving the Applewhites*  
Jerry Spinelli, *Loser*

## DVDs and Videos

*Blazing Saddles* (1974)  
*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004)  
*High Anxiety* (1977)  
*History of the World* (1981)  
*Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events* (2004)  
*The Producers* (1968)

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[www.girlstart.com/wendelin.asp](http://www.girlstart.com/wendelin.asp)

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## Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Wendelin Van Draanen's *Flipped* should include these aspects:

### Themes

- family life
- friendship

- humor
- individuality
- integrity and responsibility
- love
- materialism
- peer pressure and fitting in
- personal sacrifice
- socio-economic status

### Motifs

- having a strong, loving, and supportive family
- choosing loyal friends
- appreciating jokes, puns, and word play
- being an individual
- showing courage and honor
- having a crush on a classmate
- being overly concerned with appearance and possessions
- taking care of a handicapped sibling
- showing your feelings through art
- finding creative ways to solve problems

## Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. I still had enough sense at age seven and a half to know that Juli Baker was dangerous. (page 6)  
*(Bryce thinks that Juli is trouble. In a way, he is completely correct: Juli is dangerous because she thinks for herself and does not follow the crowd. Bryce, in contrast, is very much influenced by peer pressure to fit in. As a result, he is a coward.)*
2. Juli loved that tree. (page 25)  
*(Bryce is intelligent—although shallow—and realizes that Juli is very attached to the sycamore tree. Cutting it down will be like cutting out her heart, he notes. Bryce is so moved by Juli's feelings that he almost starts to cry himself. We already know that Juli is sensitive and concerned about the environment. This is our first clue that Bryce has a sensitive side as well. This scene suggests that he might indeed become a far better person than his materialistic, shallow behavior suggests.)*
3. "A girl like that doesn't live next door to everyone, you know." (page 28)  
*(Bryce's grandfather Chet realizes the depth of Juli's character and her integrity. As a result, he encourages Bryce to become close friends with her, but Bryce is not yet ready to buck peer pressure to become friends with someone who is not popular.)*

4. "I want the spirit of that tree to be with you always. I want you to remember how you felt when you were up there." (page 43)  
*(Juli's father makes her a painting of a little girl in a huge tree to help her heal from the trauma of being unable to save the sycamore. His generous and thoughtful gift does indeed help her recover.)*
5. "One's character is set at an early age, son." (page 85)  
*(Chet tells his grandson Bryce that the choices Bryce makes now will affect him for the rest of his life. Chet is trying to get Bryce to withstand peer pressure and do the right thing. Chet fears that Bryce will make the wrong choices and so destroy this life. Chet puts it this way: "I hate to see you swim out so far that you can't get back.")*
6. "Some of us get dipped in flat, some in satin, some on glass....Every once in a while you'll find someone iridescent, and when you do, nothing will ever compare." (page 96)  
*(Chet tells Bryce this, but Bryce does not understand that Chet is referring to Juli's sparkling personality and unique character. Chet's late wife Renee had the same sparkle to her, but Chet was able to appreciate and cherish her special individuality.)*
7. "It's that way with people, too," he said, "only with people it's sometimes that the whole is less than the sum of the parts." (page 110)  
*(Chet tells Juli this as they are cleaning up her yard. Chet is referring to his grandson Bryce, suggesting to Juli that Bryce is just not worth her time and effort. Bryce is very handsome—his parts—but they do not add up to a worthwhile person because he is a shallow conformist.)*
8. "Do the right thing..." (page 181)  
*(His grandfather's advice echoes in Bryce's mind as Miranda and Shelly are vying for his attention during the Basket Boy lunch. In this case, the right thing is to be with the person he really desires, Juli, rather than the two vacuous girls fighting over him. Bryce does the right thing and shows Juli how he feels about her by trying to kiss her in front of everyone.)*
9. "Dude, you have flipped, you know that?" (page 184)  
*(Garrett tells Bryce this after he realizes that Bryce loves Juli. The comment has two meanings. On one hand, Garrett means that Bryce has gone crazy because he has turned down the two most popular girls in the school for Juli. We know that the comment also means that Bryce's feelings have flipped—reversed—from dislike and even fear to strong affection and admiration.)*

10. "A tree?" I whispered. "He's planting a tree?" (page 211)  
*(At the end of the novel, Bryce plants a sycamore tree in Juli's yard to replace the one that was cut down. This act of love shows that he understands her, appreciates her, and is trying to show his feelings to one and all. Juli "flipped around on the couch," showing that her feelings have changed as well; now she is willing to give him a second chance to prove he is worthy of her.)*

## Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

### Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How do Juli and Bryce meet?  
*(Juli comes out to greet the family when they move into the neighborhood. She climbs into the moving truck and tries to help them move in.)*
2. Why does Chet come and live with his daughter Patsy and her family?  
*(His wife has died and his daughter Patsy realizes that he is lonely and depressed. She does not want him living alone in the house that he shared with his wife, thus becoming sadder.)*
3. How did the Matt and Mike's band get its name?  
*(The band, Mystery Pisser, is named after their dog Champ, who urinated all over the house.)*
4. What gifts does Robert bring David for his birthday?  
*(Robert brings David a puzzle and a pinwheel.)*
5. How much is the winning bid for Bryce in the Basket Boy fund-raiser?  
*(He fetches \$122.50.)*

### Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why does Bryce plant a sycamore tree in Juli's yard?  
*(Bryce is trying to win her love. He is showing Juli that he appreciates her individuality and special qualities and adores her. He wants her to understand that he has changed. He is no longer the shallow, materialistic lout that he has been all along.)*
7. Why did Patsy marry Rick Loski? Why does their marriage begin to fail?  
*(She was attracted to his good looks and slick manner. The marriage gets shaky because she suddenly realizes that he lacks integrity and honor. He is cruel, petty, and materialistic.)*

8. What is the theme, the author's message, in this story?  
*(People must look beyond appearance and popularity. Standing up for what—and whom—they believe can be a difficult challenge, one faced best with true friends and close family.)*

**Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)**

9. Did you like the form of this novel? Why or why not?  
*(Answers will vary, depending on students' feelings about stories told from alternating viewpoints. Most will likely find it fascinating to hear both sides of the story.)*
10. What levels of meaning does "flipped" have?  
*(First, the novel is "flipped" as we see each incident from first one than the other point of view. Second, Juli first "flips" over Bryce and then he "flips" over her. In this reading, "flips" is slang for becomes infatuated with.)*

**Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)**

11. Explain how your feelings about a person, place, thing, or idea have "flipped."
12. Working with a small group of classmates, make a mural showing the main events in this novel.

**Across the Curriculum**

**Art/Music**

1. Juli's father expresses his view of life in his paintings. Express your worldview through art: painting, sculpture, drawing, or any other artistic endeavor.
2. In the chapter titled Brawk-Brawk-Brawk!, Juli sings to her chickens. Find out what song she sings and learn the words. Sing the song to a small group of classmates.
3. Draw a new cover for this book. Be sure the cover shows what the book is all about.
4. Paint, sketch, or draw a picture of Juli's beloved sycamore tree.
5. Divide a piece of paper in half lengthwise. On the left side, make a collage of pictures that represents Bryce before he flipped over Juli. On the right side, make a collage of pictures that represents him after.

**Language Arts**

1. Choose a chapter from the novel and retell it from another character's point of view.
2. What happens to the characters ten years in the future? Explain their fate in a brief essay.
3. In an essay, explain how this book would be different if told from a single point of view. The point of view can be Juli's, Bryce's, or any one other character from the novel.
4. Juli feels strongly about the sycamore tree. Choose an object that you cherish. In a poem, identify the object and explain your feelings about it.
5. Pretend that you are Patsy Loski. In a series of journal entries, explain how your feelings for your husband have changed.

**Social Studies/Geography**

1. Not all communities allow people to raise chickens or other livestock in their yards. Find out your community's rules for raising chickens.
2. What is a sycamore tree? Draw the leaves and explain how this tree is classified. On a map, show where sycamores flourish.
3. Write Juli's report on Susan B. Anthony and her fight for female suffrage.

**Psychology**

1. Juli is infatuated with Bryce's eyes and hair. What causes people to fall in love? Research this subject. Compare your answer to that of your classmates' findings.
2. Bryce cheats from Juli. Write an honor code to deal with this issue.
3. Organize a fund-raiser for the booster club in your school.
4. Trace the causes and effects of peer pressure among your classmates.
5. Decide what makes people popular—and what qualities make them unpopular. How important is popularity to success in school and in life?



**Speech/Drama**

1. Bryce says: "There's no winning arguments with your parents, so why get all pumped up over them? It is way better to dive down and get out of the way than it is to get clobbered by some parental tidal wave." With a classmate, debate this issue. Is it better to give in or argue your point?
2. Bryce goes out with Shelly in an attempt to ditch Juli. His plan fails. With a classmate, come up with a better plan. Then act it out for the class.
3. Put on a play about falling in love.
4. The Bakers' yard is a mess. In a roundtable discussion, decide how to deal with this situation.
5. Should Juli have climbed the sycamore tree to prevent it from being cut down? Debate this issue and work out other ways to save the tree.
6. Do a good deed for someone, as Juli does when she rescues Bryce's kite.

**Science**

1. Shelly has gorgeous hair. Learn all about hair: its composition, its rate of growth, and so on. Show your findings on a large chart or other display.
2. Juli's brothers have many odd pets, including a boa constrictor. Report on these snakes. Share your findings on a webpage or in a print format.
3. Hatch some eggs for a science project, as Juli does.
4. Bryce and his family are worried that they will contract salmonella from Juli's eggs. Find out how a person gets this bacteria and what illness it causes. How is the illness treated?
5. Juli discusses perpetual motion with her father and Chet. Research this topic and share your findings with the class.

6. Juli's uncle is retarded. Research the different classifications of mental retardation. Learn about "inclusion classrooms" and "mainstreaming." Share your findings with the class.

**Math**

1. How tall does a sycamore tree grow in ten years? Twenty years? Fifty years? One hundred years? Show the statistics on a chart.
2. Calculate how much money Juli makes on her eggs.
3. When Bryce's kite gets stuck in a tree, Juli goes after it. She says that when she gets to the top of the tree, she feels like she is on the top of the Empire State Building. Make a chart or graph comparing the height of the ten tallest buildings in the world.
4. Juli's father supports his brother in a residential facility. Find out how much a similar facility and a state facility each cost per month. On a chart, show what services the handicapped person would receive in each place.
5. Juli's parents rent their home. On a chart, show the average price to rent a house and to buy a house in your community. Then calculate the tax advantages to purchasing a house. Which alternative is better economically: renting or buying?

**Alternate Assessment**

1. Eggs have been called the "perfect food." Find out why. Then prepare a recipe book with at least five different easy ways to cook and serve eggs.
2. Paint Juli's portrait. Trade pictures with a classmate. Compare and contrast how you visualized her.
3. Work with a friend. Act out your favorite scene from the book.
4. Read another book by Wendelin Van Draanen. Tell how it is the same and different from *Flipped*.

## Vocabulary

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| ___ 1. harass       | A. wild                       |
| ___ 2. ornery       | B. run-down                   |
| ___ 3. acute        | C. huge                       |
| ___ 4. antique      | D. acrid                      |
| ___ 5. massive      | E. bother, annoy              |
| ___ 6. gnarled      | F. mock                       |
| ___ 7. commotion    | G. twisted                    |
| ___ 8. melancholy   | H. sharp                      |
| ___ 9. scoff        | I. capable                    |
| ___ 10. vile        | J. sad                        |
| ___ 11. dilapidated | K. old and sometimes valuable |
| ___ 12. scoundrel   | L. evil                       |
| ___ 13. feral       | M. crook                      |
| ___ 14. competent   | N. cranky, stubborn           |
| ___ 15. pungent     | O. noise and fuss             |

## Comprehension Test A

### Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the term that best completes each of the following statements.

1. When Bryce Loski moves into the neighborhood, he and Julie are in the **(2nd, 8th)** grade.
2. The first time Juli Baker saw Bryce Loski, she flipped for his **(big muscles, blue eyes)**.
3. Juli affectionately calls her chickens **(“my girls,” “you critters”)**.
4. Matt and Mike call their band **(Big Howl, Mystery Pisser)**.
5. Bryce goes for a walk with his grandfather, who tells him: “Every once in a while you’ll find someone **(weird, iridescent)**, and when you do, nothing will ever be the same again.”
6. Chet tells Juli that she reminds him of his deceased **(wife, mother)**.
7. Bryce carries Juli’s **(picture, comb)** around with him, and his friend Garrett teases him about it.
8. Robert brings his brother a **(book, puzzle)** and a pinwheel for his birthday.
9. Bryce is auctioned off a record-breaking **(\$122.50, \$50.50)** at the school fund raiser.
10. To please Juli at the end of the book, Bryce **(plants a tree, writes her a letter)**.

### Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| A. Champ       | F. Robert            |
| B. Garrett     | G. David             |
| C. Bryce Loski | H. Greenhaven        |
| D. Juli Baker  | I. Josie Gruenmakker |
| E. Chet Duncan | J. Mabel             |

- \_\_\_ 1. Juli’s father, a mason
- \_\_\_ 2. the administrator in the residential facility
- \_\_\_ 3. Robert’s brother, a 40-year old retarded man
- \_\_\_ 4. Bryce’s grandfather
- \_\_\_ 5. Juli’s dog
- \_\_\_ 6. the handicapped woman with the speech impediment
- \_\_\_ 7. the place where David lives
- \_\_\_ 8. Bryce’s friend; he is more concerned with fitting in than being a friend
- \_\_\_ 9. the girl who narrates half the book
- \_\_\_ 10. the boy who narrates the other half of the book

## Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

### Part III: True/False (20 points)

Write T if the statement is true or F if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Bryce is not above cheating from Juli's papers, even though she infuriates him by sniffing his hair.
- \_\_\_ 2. Juli and her parents are angry because the Loskis' yard is a big mess, as Mr. Loski spends all his free time painting landscapes.
- \_\_\_ 3. Bryce gets a snake after he sees the snake that Juli's brothers own. He likes to watch the snake eat eggs.
- \_\_\_ 4. Bryce tells Juli that her house is a disgrace to the neighborhood.
- \_\_\_ 5. Part-way through the book the situation flips: Juli's enthusiastic infatuation wanes just as Bryce's begins to kick in.
- \_\_\_ 6. Chet tells Juli to look beyond Bryce's glossy surface, implying that Bryce is shallow.
- \_\_\_ 7. The Loskis invite the Baker family for dinner, but the Bakers refuse the invitation because they think the Loskis are vulgar and rude.
- \_\_\_ 8. Juli's parents are very embarrassed by their sons' appearance and their music.
- \_\_\_ 9. During the Booster Club fund raiser, Juli bids on Jon Trulock and wins him.
- \_\_\_ 10. While Shelly and Miranda fight over Bryce, he tries to kiss Juli but she breaks away from him.

### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe how Bryce changes as a result of his experiences.
2. Analyze the relationship between Bryce's parents.
3. What does Juli's father mean when he says that "a painting is more than the sum of its parts"? How does this apply to Juli? To Bryce?
4. Analyze what the title means and tell why it fits the novel's theme.

## Comprehension Test B

### Part I: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each and explain why it is important in the novel.

1. eggs
2. the sycamore tree
3. an ice cream cone
4. home-made pies
5. Basket Boys

### Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of speakers from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Juli Baker     | A. Bryce's father   |
| ___ 2. Bryce Loski    | B. the neighbor who buys eggs from Juli                         |
| ___ 3. Lynetta        | C. the girl who has a crush on Bryce                            |
| ___ 4. Chester Duncan | D. Bryce's mother   |
| ___ 5. Patsy          | E. Juli's uncle; he is retarded                                 |
| ___ 6. Rick           | F. Juli's mother  |
| ___ 7. Trina          | G. a shallow, cowardly young man                                |
| ___ 8. Mystery Pisser | H. Bryce's grandfather  |
| ___ 9. Mrs Stueby     | I. Champ, the Bakers' dog, and the name of Matt and Mike's band |
| ___ 10. David         | J. Bryce's sister   |

## Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

### Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each statement below with a reason or explanation.

1. Juli climbs into the moving truck in the beginning of the book because \_\_\_\_\_
2. For most of the story, Bryce had tried to avoid Juli because \_\_\_\_\_
3. Bryce asks Shelly Stalls out on a date because \_\_\_\_\_
4. Juli hates Shelly because \_\_\_\_\_
5. When he first comes to live with his daughter, Chester Duncan is listless and depressed because \_\_\_\_
6. Juli's yard is a mess because \_\_\_\_\_
7. Bryce and Garrett spy on Juli's yard because \_\_\_\_\_
8. Bryce's mother invites Juli's family for a formal dinner because \_\_\_\_\_
9. David throws a tantrum because \_\_\_\_\_
10. Juli votes for Jon Trulock to be part of the fund-raiser because \_\_\_\_\_

### Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Critics praised *Flipped* for many reasons, especially its humor. Cite three examples of humor in this novel.
2. There is also a substantial amount of serious social commentary woven into *Flipped*. Analyze what the author says about our values, especially conspicuous consumption, peer pressure to fit in, and how we treat the handicapped.
3. What is Van Draanen saying about the importance of perspective in relationships? Describe her message in this novel.
4. Analyze what the title means and tell why it fits the novel's theme.

## Answer Key

### VOCABULARY

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. G  | 11. B |
| 2. N | 7. O  | 12. M |
| 3. H | 8. J  | 13. A |
| 4. K | 9. F  | 14. I |
| 5. C | 10. L | 15. D |

### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. 2nd            | 6. wife           |
| 2. blue eyes      | 7. picture        |
| 3. "my girls"     | 8. puzzle         |
| 4. Mystery Pisser | 9. \$122.50       |
| 5. iridescent     | 10. plants a tree |

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. J  |
| 2. I | 7. H  |
| 3. G | 8. B  |
| 4. E | 9. D  |
| 5. A | 10. C |

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T  |
| 2. F | 7. F  |
| 3. F | 8. F  |
| 4. T | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. T |

#### Part IV: Essay (40 Points)

Answers will vary.

### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Identification (20 points)

- Juli hatches eggs for a school project and when the chickens mature, they lay eggs. She sells some and gives others to Bryce and his family. Afraid that the eggs carry disease, Bryce throws them out. Juli is infuriated when she discovers this and decides that Bryce really doesn't deserve her respect or affection.
- Juli loves the huge sycamore tree in the neighborhood. She often climbs its branches and sits there admiring the world. One day, however, men arrive to cut down the tree. Juli climbs it to prevent the destruction. Her father finally talks her down. The tree becomes a symbol for beauty, individuality, and the preservation of the environment.

- Robert takes his retarded brother David out for ice cream for his birthday. David throws a tantrum when his cone drops. Robert handles the situation smoothly, but this situation reveals how much care David really requires. This shows readers the difficulty the family has faced and how much they are willing to sacrifice to keep David happy and safe.
- Trina and Juli bake two pies to bring to the Loskis' home for dinner. After having dinner with the Loskis, the Bakers sit down at home over left-over pie and enjoy each other's company. This scene reveals their closeness, in stark contrast to the difficulties in the Loskis' household.
- Bryce is chosen to be a "Basket Boy," auctioned to the highest bidder as a lunch date, part of the Booster Club's annual fund raising drive. He is embarrassed about being chosen. This shows that he is maturing and becoming less shallow. This scene also highlights typical embarrassing junior high and high school traditions.

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

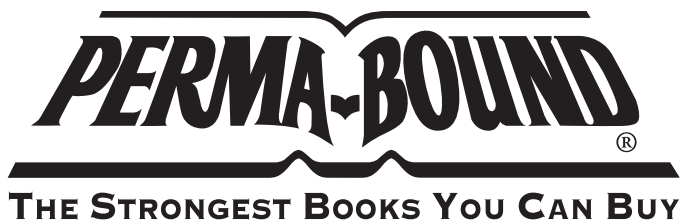
- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 2. G | 3. J | 4. H | 5. D  |
| 6. A | 7. F | 8. I | 9. B | 10. E |

#### Part III: Motivation (20 points)

- she wants to help them move in and Bryce isn't helping at all
- he considers her an embarrassment
- he is using Shelly to get Juli to leave him alone
- Shelly is mean and shallow
- he misses his wife, who has died recently
- the landlord won't clean it up and Juli's parents are too busy and they spend all their extra money on the residential facility where Robert's retarded brother lives.
- they are too shy to ask her if she has any roosters
- she feels sympathy for their troubles, wants to get to know them better; she wants to be a good neighbor
- his cone drops on the floor
- he is so nice

#### Part IV: Essay (40 Points)

Answers will vary.



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