

Ramona The Brave

by Beverly Cleary

Classroom Favorites



Teacher's Guide by Beth Campbell and Jeanny Gilpin

A Perma-Bound Production

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SYNOPSIS

Chap. 1 As the two sweaty Quimby sisters entered their house on an August afternoon, Ramona, the youngest, felt she had been a heroine for defending her older sister, Beezus, in front of some teasing boys. But as the story unfolded to their mother, Ramona realized SHE was the one Beezus was angry with! It seems when Ramona had “preached a sermon” at the boys, it was probably going to mean more teasing for Beezus when school began—all because of her name. Later, Mrs. Quimby had a secret she would not share with the girls.

Chap. 2 Ramona and Beezus are certainly surprised to learn their mother’s secret was that she was getting a job! This was to pay for another bedroom to be built for the girls. Ramona was ecstatic to learn she would be getting the bedroom first—for six months, that is. Summer would not be so boring after all.

Chap. 3 Even a new game of Brick Factory with her good friend Howie could not top the new room finally being built. The best part seemed to be when the closet was opened up and an actual hole was in her house! Now she would really have something to tell at Show and Tell!

Chap. 4 First grade in Room One began nicely as Ramona took her seat in the fourth desk in the second row. But when Ramona wrote her unique “Q”, things took a sour turn. Mrs. Griggs didn’t understand Ramona’s unique qualities as Miss Binney had. And she also didn’t understand that Ramona really had a hole chopped in her house. The whole class thought she was lying. Even Howie denied knowing about the hole! Here it was, the first day of school and already the year was ruined for Ramona.

Chap. 5 Somehow Ramona Quimby was always misunderstood. She wanted Mrs. Griggs to know she was a good worker and she was helping Davy. When making paper bag owls for Parents’ Night, Ramona noticed that Susan copied her owl’s eyes! And to make matters worse, everyone thought Ramona had done the copying! Ramona was so mad she threw hers away and could not keep from crushing Susan’s copycat owl. Ramona ran out the door and all the way home into the comforting arms of her mother. Getting to spend the first night in her new room made it all seem better.

Chap. 6 Just as she had expected, while Mrs. Kemp was babysitting Beezus and Ramona, Mrs. Griggs was at Parents’ Night, blabbing the entire owl story. Nobody understood her! When mother announced later that night that she would have to

apologize the next day for what she had done, Ramona never dreamed she would have to do so in front of the entire class! She would get that Susan back somehow—even if it were only telling her she stinks.

Chap. 7 Ramona had many reasons why first grade wasn’t working out for her. Worst of all, she was not only afraid to sleep in her new room, she was ashamed to admit it. Even her old stalling tactics couldn’t keep her up until Mrs. Quimby returned home from bowling. She could not be expected to sleep in a dark room without Beezus where all kinds of creepy, slithering things could reach her. The next day, as she sat on the school steps thinking about how much she disliked first grade, Mr. Cardoza made her feel much better—all because he knew her name.

Chap. 8 Ramona thought Beezus had a much better teacher than SHE had. Mrs. Griggs was just not very exciting. Ramona thought some of the mean things Mrs. Griggs had written on her progress report were so unfair. Of course, Beezus’s report was perfect — just like her. When it was time to shock her entire family, Ramona thought one bad word might be in order, but she was not quite ready for her family’s reaction. Surprisingly, Beezus came to her rescue by revealing some of her own feelings about things her parents had said about her. Ramona was so exhausted that night, she hid the scary book on her shelf and fell asleep.

Chap. 9 Since Ramona was now her father’s “spunky gal”, she felt different today. She was so happy she decided to go to school a different way—a way she had always wanted to take. When a big German shepherd chased her, she had to throw her blue lunch box at him. Then she threw the only thing she had left—her shoe! Shoeless, Ramona used her imagination and made a paper towel slipper with a stapler she borrowed from Mr. Cordoza. The dog’s owner returned the chewed shoe to Ramona and she hoped mother wouldn’t be in too much of a hurry to polish the teeth marks. They proved to everyone Ramona was a very brave girl.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Beverly Cleary is one of America’s most popular children’s authors. She was born on April 12, 1916, in McMinnville, Oregon and spent most of her childhood in Portland. Cleary later headed toward sunny California where she went to college and met her husband. She was studying to be a librarian and later published her first book. Cleary’s dream was to be a children’s librarian and write books to help fill the library shelves. Beverly Cleary’s dream came true on April 8, 1997, as she spoke at the

re-opening, rededication ceremonies for Central Library in Portland, Oregon now known as the Beverly B. Cleary Children's Library. The Clearys have grown twins and reside in California.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Mrs. Cleary's books have earned her many prestigious awards, including the American Library Association's Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, presented in recognition of her lasting contribution to children's literature. Her book *Dear Mr. Henshaw* was awarded the 1984 John Newbery Medal, and *Ramona and Her Father* and *Ramona Quimby, Age 8* have been named Newbery Honor Books. In addition, her books have won more than thirty statewide awards based on the votes of her young readers. Her characters such as Henry Huggins, Ellen Tebbits, Otis Spofford, Beezus and Ramona Quimby, as well as Ribs, Socks, and Ralph S. Mouse, have delighted children for more than a generation. Other endearing Cleary books include *Henry and the Paper Route*, *Runaway Ralph*, and *Strider*.

OTHER WORKS BY BEVERLY CLEARY

Henry Huggins (1950)
Ellen Tebbits (1951)
Henry and Beezus (1952)
Otis Spofford (1953)
Henry and Ribs (1954)
Beezus and Ramona (1955)
Fifteen (1956)
Henry and the Paper Route (1957)
The Luckiest Girl (1958)
Jean and Johnny (1959)
The Real Hole (pre-school)(1960)
Hullabaloo ABC (pre-school)(1960)
Leave it to Beaver (fictionalization of tv series)(1960)
Two Dog Biscuits (pre-school)(1961)
Emily's Runaway Imagination (1961)
Henry and the Clubhouse (1962)
Sister of the Bride (1963)
Ribs (1964)
The Mouse and the Motorcycle (1965)
Mitch and Amy (1967)
Ramona the Pest (1968)
Runaway Ralph (1970)
The Sausage at the End of the Nose (play)(1974)
Ramona and Her Father (1977)
Ramona and Her Mother (1979)
Ramona Quimby, Age 8 (1981)
Ralph S. Mouse (1982)
Dear Mr. Henshaw (1983)
Ramona Forever (1984)
Lucky Chuck (1984)
The Ramona Quimby Diary (1984)
The Beezus and Ramona Diary (1986)
Janet's Thingamajigs (1987)
The Growing-Up Feet (1987)
A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir (1988)
Muggie Maggie (1990)
Socks (1990)
Strider (1991)
Petey's Bedtime Story (picturebook)(1993)
My Own Two Feet: A Memoir (1995)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berg, Julie. *Beverly Cleary*. ABDO and Daughters, 1993.
 "Beverly Cleary Biography,"
 <oz.plymouth.edu/~j_haas/r1306.html>
Something About the Author. Vol. 79. Detroit, Gale.
 Ward, Stasia. *Meet Beverly Cleary*. Powerhouse Press, 2001.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SOURCES

fiction

David Adler, *School Trouble for Andy Russell*
 Barbara Becker, *Third Grade is Terrible*
 Judy Blume, *Freckle Juice* and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*
 Judy Cox, *Third Grade Pet*
 Betsy Duffy, *How to Be Cool in the Third Grade*
 Elizabeth Levy, *Third Grade Bullies*
 Mike Schanbeck, *Does Third Grade Last Forever?*

poetry

Lee Bennett Hopkins, ed., *School Supplies: A Book of Poems*

nonfiction

Pamela Sneddon, *Brothers and Sisters: Born to Bicker?*

Internet

"Beverly Cleary WebQuest," www.gcsd.k12.sc.us/kes/beverly_cleary_webquest.htm>
 "Multnomah County Library KidsPage: Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden," <www.multnomah.lib.or.us/lib/kids/cleary.html>
 "The Unofficial Beverly Cleary Home Page,"
 <www.teleport.com/~krp/cleary.html>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Chap. 1 Trouble In the Park

1. What was the name of the street on which the Quimbys lived?
2. Describe the Quimby family?
3. Why were the girls sweaty when arriving home?
4. What had the boys at the park said that upset Beezus so?
5. How had Ramona embarrassed Beezus this time?
6. Describe Ramona's appearance when the girls came in from the park?
7. How had Beatrice gotten the name Beezus?
8. What was the name of the old yellow cat? How old was this cat?

Chap. 2 Mrs. Quimby's Secret

1. Where did Picky-picky spend most of his time?
2. Where did Ramona find her red crayon? What was wrong with it?
3. What was a "fighting word" for Ramona?
4. What is Ramona's full name?
5. What changes were going to be made to their house?
6. Where will they get the money to pay for these changes?

Chap. 3 The Hole In The House

1. What grade would Ramona be in this year?
2. Why was she so impatient with the workmen?
3. What did Howie bring in the wagon?
4. Which game did they play with these?
5. Describe "Brick Factory".
6. How old was Mr. Quimby?
7. How did Ramona "mark" the new concrete?
8. What was Beezus's most favorite thing to do?

Chap. 4 The First Day of School

1. What two new things did Ramona have for first grade?
2. Who was Ramona's Kindergarten teacher she called to that morning?
3. Who was Beezus's friend?
4. What did Ramona want to do to Susan's hair?
5. Who was her first grade teacher?
6. What was Susan's nickname for Ramona?
7. About what was Ramona anxious to share with the class?
8. How did things in Room One get out of hand?
9. Why didn't her class believe her story?

Chap. 5 Owl Trouble

1. What did Ramona seem to miss?
2. Why was Davy having problems?
3. What did Ramona want to make for Parents' Night?
4. What did Ramona accuse Susan of doing?
5. What happened to Ramona's owl? Why?
6. Who noticed?
7. What happened to Susan's owl?
8. How did Ramona react to what she had done?
9. What would Ramona get to do that very night for the first time?

Chap. 6 Parents' Night

1. What did Ramona pretend her new closet was?
2. Why didn't Ramona want her mother and father to go to Parents' Night?
3. Who was there to babysit Ramona?
4. Describe Mrs. Kemp.
5. What did Ramona want from Mrs. Kemp?
6. Why did Ramona get out of bed?
7. What did Ramona think as the worst feeling in the world?
8. Did Mrs. Griggs tell on Ramona?
9. Why did Ramona feel mixed up?
10. What did Ramona have to do the next day at school?
11. How did Ramona make Susan mad?
12. How did Ramona feel about Mrs. Griggs?

Chap. 7 Alone in the Dark

1. More than anything in the world, what did Ramona not want to do each night?
2. What did Beezus help her mother prepare in the kitchen?
3. With what item did Ramona always sleep?
4. Why did Ramona always push her bed out from the wall?
5. What was Ramona ashamed to confess?
6. What was the weather like outside?
7. Why did Ramona lie "as still as a paper doll"?
8. What had Mr. Quimby been doing that evening?
9. Why did Ramona ask her father to take a book off of her shelf?
10. Only babies were afraid to _____.
11. Describe the dream Ramona had.
12. Where did Ramona go to school?
13. What are some of the reasons Ramona doesn't enjoy first grade?
14. Who saw Ramona sitting on the school steps?
15. How did he make Ramona feel better?

Chap. 8 Ramona Says A Bad Word

1. What did Ramona do with her progress report?
2. Describe things that happened to Beezus in school?
3. Describe Ramona's book she made.

4. What did Ramona do unusually well for a girl her age?
5. What did Ramona's progress report say?
6. What "bad word" did Ramona say?
7. Why did she want to say a bad word?
8. How did her family react?
9. How did Beezus finally make Ramona feel better?
10. Of what was Ramona still afraid in her book?
11. Ramona found comfort in being her father's

12. What did Ramona do with the big flat book?

Chap. 9 Mrs. Quimby's Spunky Gal

1. What made Ramona feel so different this day?
2. What terrified Ramona on the way to school?
3. Of which fairy tale did it remind her?
4. What was Ramona's only weapon?
5. What happened to one of Ramona's shoes?
6. Why didn't Ramona want to lead the flag salute today?
7. How did Mrs. Griggs find out about her lost shoe?
8. How did the class react to her story?
9. Why did Ramona need paper towels from the girls' bathroom?
10. What brave thing did Ramona do upstairs in the school?
11. How do we know that Ramona has good manners?
12. What did Ramona do while the class made Thanksgiving turkeys?
13. Why was Ramona the first to answer every question in reading group?
14. How did Ramona's missing show get to school?
15. Why did the school secretary think Ramona was brave?

ACTIVITIES

1. Discuss the sisters, Ramona and Beezus, and their relationship with each other. Compare and contrast using a Venn Diagram.
2. There was a mutual trust between Ramona and her parents. Have students write a letter to a person they trust and give details and examples on how this trust was developed.
3. Have students choose their favorite part of Ramona's adventure. Write a journal entry from one character's point of view.
4. Beezus loves to read. Use a chart to list why reading is important in daily life.
5. Write a sequel to the story. Invite Ramona to spend the day with the class. Remind the students that something absurd is sure to happen when Ramona tags along.
6. Hold a mock trial to determine if Ramona meant to crumble Susan's paper bag owl.
7. Ramona's mother said she was old enough to make cookies (p. 42). Have students brainstorm ingredients for a cookie recipe and bake from scratch.

ANSWER KEY

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. A | 5. A | 9. D |
| 2. B | 6. B | 10. C |
| 3. D | 7. C | 11. C |
| 4. C | 8. C | 12. C |

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUIZ

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 1. Why was Beezus upset with the boys in the park?
A. They made fun of her name.
B. They would not let her on the swings.
C. They picked on her sister, Ramona.
D. They wouldn't play with her.
- _____ 2. Ramona always played which game?
A. Hide-And-Go-Seek
B. Brick Factory
C. Kick Ball
D. Tag
- _____ 3. Why was Ramona upset about making her project for Parents' Night?
A. Everyone laughed at her owl.
B. She ran out of purple paper.
C. She made her eyes crooked.
D. Someone was copying her.
- _____ 4. What happened to Susan's owl?
A. She lost the eyes.
B. It fell in the trash can.
C. Ramona crumbled it.
D. It came to life.
- _____ 5. Who gave Beatrice the nickname "Beezus"?
A. Boys in the park
B. Ramona
C. Her mom
D. Her best friend
- _____ 6. What did Ramona make for herself at school after hers was lost?
A. Another owl
B. A paper shoe
C. A book
D. A new game

- _____ 7. What did Mrs. Griggs make Ramona do because she messed up Susan's owl?
- A. Make her another one
 - B. Write Susan a letter
 - C. Apologize in front of the class
 - D. Go to the principal's office
- _____ 8. What did Ramona do with her progress report?
- A. Quickly showed it to her parents
 - B. Tore it in half
 - C. Hid it under her bed
 - D. Threw it away
- _____ 9. What did Ramona throw at the dog on the way to school?
- A. A bone
 - B. Her back pack
 - C. A stick
 - D. Her shoe
- _____ 10. What did Ramona borrow from Mr. Cardoza?
- A. A pencil
 - B. A nickel
 - C. A stapler
 - D. A book
- _____ 11. How did Beezus feel about Ramona defending her in the park?
- A. Happy because her sister was brave
 - B. Scared because Ramona almost got hurt
 - C. Embarrassed because she could have died
 - D. Thankful because she didn't like the boys
- _____ 12. What would Ramona say that her sister did all the time?
- A. Played outside
 - B. Talked on the phone
 - C. Read books
 - D. Got into trouble

TEACHER'S NOTES

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