

Helping you fulfill the Common Core

Teacher/Discussion Guide for



Swept Up

Text © 2011 Diane Owens
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ISBN 978-1-936517-43-5
Published by Off the Bookshelf
171 pages, 6X9 trade paperback. Ages: 8-12
Light fantasy/adventure

One angry janitor with an unbelievable plan...
73 sixth-graders locked inside...
an artificial town that's becoming uncomfortably real...
a popular girl who knows how to escape.

Too bad no one feels like listening.

6th Grade

Swept Up

About the Book

When an old janitor locks the sixth grade inside a simulated town, pretty and popular Regan Jones plans an easy escape. But kids who normally hang on her every word refuse to listen. Instead, they seem strangely committed to the janitor. Worse, they don't want to leave – ever. As the fake town turns dangerously real, Regan fights to save herself. But she'll have to face some hard truths and become a true leader to save them all.

About the Author

Diane Owens has never been kidnapped by an angry janitor while on a school field trip. But she has spent a lot of time wondering what would happen if she had been. In real life, she likes school janitors and is not afraid of them at all.



Students can find Diane online at allwritewithme.com, a writing community she developed to assist and encourage young writers. The site includes creative writing tips, techniques, story prompts, activities, and group projects. Young writers can post their original stories to the site and provide their opinions and advice to other site users. Teachers and parents can connect with Diane and other users of the All Write with Me website at facebook.com/allwritewithme.

Diane is a graduate of the University of Iowa and the Institute of Children's Literature. Her short stories and articles have been published in children's magazines, writers' newsletters and online. She lives in Orion, Illinois with her husband, two kids and the grumpiest miniature Schnauzer ever born.

Themes

- ~ friendship
- ~ community
- ~ the value we place on ourselves
- ~ the value we place on others

Keep these themes in mind when discussing questions that address the common core state standard RL.6.2 and RL.6.5.

About the Common Core State Standards Initiative

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About the Guide

This teacher/discussion guide was created by the author, Diane Owens, in collaboration with certified classroom teachers Nancy Barth and Alyce McConaghy. The guide complies with the Reading: Literature Common Core State Standards for 6th Grade. Each question/activity includes the specific standards addressed. The English Language Arts Standards for Reading: Literature, Grade 6, is included at the end of this guide. **The guide is comprehensive and not intended to be assigned to students in its entirety. Teachers should select the questions, discussions and activities that are most beneficial to their classes.**

The guide consists of the following sections for each chapter:

~Ribbit Vocabulary~

To help students define unfamiliar words through context, the guide contains the sentence and page number where each word occurs. Words with asterisks(*) are likely to have positive/negative connotations for your students. As an added activity, students can discuss how they feel about these asterisked words then see if the story supports or negates their initial responses.

~Jump in Comprehension~

The comprehension questions address a wide range of understanding and cover nearly every plot point. To fulfill standard RL.6.1, students should support their answers with direct quotes from the novel.

~Hop on Discussion~

This section invites students to explore the novel at a deeper level. Designed for whole-class discussion, these questions allow students to expand on each other's thoughts, feelings and reactions while considering the characters' motivations, themes and story events. To fulfill RL.6.1, students should support their answers with direct quotes from the novel. For RL.6.5, teachers should explain that some chapters contain more than one scene. In the novel, scenes are separated by the following mark: ~ ~ ~ ~ / / ~ ~ ~ ~

~Leap across Extension~

This section allows you to see how each student responds beyond the influence of the group. Some questions and activities in this section require individual writing, while others may be more beneficial when discussed in small groups or pairings. For RL.6.1, students should support their answers with direct quotes from the novel.

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Pre-reading Activities



Review the Front Cover

The front cover highlights the three main characters of the novel: Noelle Hansen (left), Regan Jones (middle) and Connor James (right). Answer the following questions based only on how the characters look on the cover.

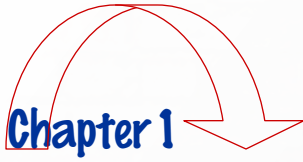
- ~ How do you think each of these characters will act in the story?
- ~ What kind of person or friend do you think each of these characters will be? Include at least three adjectives in your description and discuss why you think so.
- ~ Which of these characters is most like you? Why do you think so?
- ~ Why do you think Connor has a broom?



Review the Back Cover

- ~ Based on the short description, what kind of story do you think this will be?
- ~ Discuss why a janitor would have an unbelievable plan. What do you think the plan is?
- ~ What do you think the biggest problem in the story will be?
- ~ What could the last line in the description mean?





Ribbit



(RL.6.4)

stationary

*In the back right corner, treadmills and **stationary** bikes waited for her behind the glass walls of the Exercise Center. (p. 5)*

*billowed

*As soon as the words left her mouth, a strong gust of wind plowed through the group. Sleeves flapped against arms. Shirts **billowed** across backs. (p. 6)*

rafters

*Papers floated down from the **rafters**. (p. 6)*

ancient

*Beyond old. **Ancient**. (p. 6)*

*seeping

*But nothing could protect her from the odors **seeping** out of him. (p. 7)*

draft

*"...I shouldn't have opened the door. I didn't realize there was such a **draft**." (p. 7)*

*teeter

*Leah froze. Completely. She didn't **teeter**; she didn't twitch. (p. 7)*

*twitch

*Leah froze. Completely. She didn't teeter; she didn't **twitch**. (p. 7)*

crouch

*Everyone around her continued to **crouch**, kneel or bend over the floor... (p. 7)*

*skittered

*Goose bumps **skittered** up her arms. (p. 8)*

*rigid

*He worked his way around the floor, taking piles and removing papers from **rigid** fingers. (p. 8)*

assure

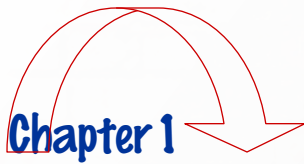
*"...But I **assure** you that every job is important." (p. 10)*

peered

*Regan **peered** around Becca's finger. (p. 10)*

scanned

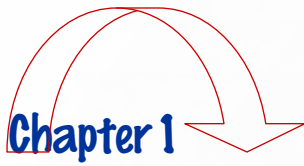
*He pointed at her name then **scanned** the rest of the sheet. (p. 12)*



Jump in



- ~ Where does the story take place? Why are they there? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why is Regan standing in front of the rest of the kids? Why is everyone clapping for her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2,)
- ~ What causes the assignment lists to fly out of the teacher's hand? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who bumps into Regan? Why is he upset? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Regan think she's dreaming? (RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why has Regan been looking forward to this field trip? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who's going to be Chief of Police? Why does Regan think it won't work out? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why are the other kids complaining? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Who's going to be Town Reporter? Why does this surprise Becca? Why does it make Regan happy? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan want to talk to the teacher? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Where does the teacher go? Why? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What does Derek want to do? Why doesn't Becca agree with him? (RL.6.1)
- ~ For a moment, Regan blames the janitor for their mixed-up job assignments. Why does she blame him? Why does she change her mind? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan want everyone to stop arguing? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What makes Derek say that Regan can't be mayor? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Derek says Noelle is going to be their mayor. Why does this surprise Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What has upset Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

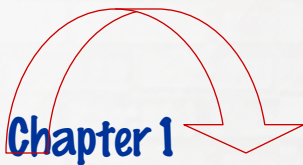


Hop on



- ~ This story is told in third person but it's told through the viewpoint of the main character, Regan Jones. Do you think staying within Regan's viewpoint is going to affect the story? In what way? (RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe Regan's reaction to the old man. Why do you think she reacted this way? How would you have reacted? (RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do you feel about the old man? Why? (RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the kids really froze? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do the smells described in this chapter make you feel about the old man? How do they make you feel about Regan? (RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Have you ever thought you knew exactly what a person was like the first time you met him or her? Were you right or wrong? In what way? (RL.6.2)
- ~ Listen while someone reads from page 8, 4th paragraph: "The man.." to the end of the 7th paragraph: "And soon..." How do your feelings change after the reader gets to the line, "oh, stop it"? How does listening to this passage aloud make Regan's thoughts seem to come quicker after this line? (RL.6.7)
- ~ "Reganite" is a made-up word. What do you think it means? (RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ On page 10, "Becca pushed one of the lesser Reganites out of the way." How does this make you feel about Becca? How does it make you feel about the Reganite? (RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ Listen while someone reads from page 10, 2nd paragraph: "Becca Sanchez..." to the end of the 4th paragraph: "You think?..." How does hearing Becca speak make you feel about her? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Did Regan mean it when she congratulated Derek for getting police chief? When was the last time you bent the truth to keep from hurting someone's feelings or to make someone feel better? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do you think Regan feels about Derek? Becca? Connor? What are the things Regan does, says or thinks that support your answers? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the old man has something to do with the kids getting jobs they didn't want or expect? If so, how do you think he did it? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why do you think Derek wants the others to follow the assignment list even though it's wrong? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)

- ~ Do you think Regan was confident Derek would agree with her? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Becca speaks to Regan on page 13 these words are all smashed together: “you’re not going to believe this” Why do you think the author did this? (RL.6.4)
- ~ Turn to page 12. Assign someone to be narrator and different people to read the dialogue for each of the following characters: Regan, the Reganite, Derek and Becca. Start with the 6th paragraph: “She smiled...” and read aloud until the end of the chapter. How would you describe each of the characters after listening to them out loud? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Do you think the class is really locked inside the gym? If so, how do you think it happened? What do you think is going to happen next? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Becca is scared. Regan isn’t. Are there events in the story that would scare you? Which ones? (RL.6.3)
- ~ What do you learn about Regan that might affect the rest of the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ How might the old man’s reaction to Regan affect the rest of the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What do you find out about Connor that might affect the rest of the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How does Derek feel about rules? How do you know? Why does this make it hard for Regan to believe when he insists they follow the mixed-up assignment list? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How does the last scene change the direction of the story? (RL.6.5)



Leap across

- ~ Compare Profit Town to places you’ve been or have seen. (RL.6.3)
- ~ What kind of person do you think Regan is? Support your answer with things that Regan does, says and thinks. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Write down the descriptions you find of Profit Town. Because the story is told through Regan’s viewpoint, these are the things that Regan notices. Based on these descriptions – Regan’s observations – what kind of person do you think she is? What does she care about? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

Leap across (more)

Chapter 1

- ~ How do you think Regan feels about her teacher? What was written in the story to make you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan feel about old people in general and the old man who bumped into her? What happened in the story to make you think this? (RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who do you think Regan likes most – Derek, Becca or Connor? What happened in the story to make you think so? (RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 9, Derek is described as acting like “a wannabe cheerleader with a borrowed pompon.” What does this comparison make you think of? How does it make you feel about Derek? (RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Think of a time when you felt extremely appreciated and accepted. Describe how it made you feel. (RL.6.2)
- ~ Based on what you read on the back cover, is the story developing like you thought it would? In what way is it what you expected? In what way is it different? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Name a feeling you had while reading this chapter. List the things that made you feel this way. (RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Compare Regan to someone you know. How are they alike? How are they different? (RL.6.3)



Ribbit

Chapter 2

(RL.6.4)

*interfere

*All Regan had to do was get Noelle away from Derek so he couldn't **interfere**. (p. 15)*

*dazzling

*She wiped her hand across her mouth, delivered a **dazzling** smile and waited for him to notice. (p. 16)*

*plunged

*She shook the sticky globs off her sticky fingers and **plunged** under the counter for some paper towels. (p. 18)*

*scurried

*Noelle **scurried** over to scoop the frog off the floor. (p. 18)*

*obviously

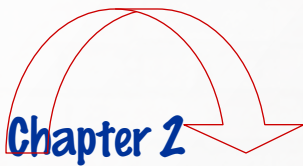
*"... You're **obviously** a more caring person." (p. 19)*



Jump in

- ~ Why isn't Regan concerned about the locked doors? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Noelle want to be mayor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What is Regan's plan to become mayor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan says she plans to go to the dance with someone who is nice to her friends. Why does this upset Neil? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ How does Regan feel about Connor? How does Connor feel about her? How do you know? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan try to convince Noelle to switch jobs? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Noelle want to work in the cafeteria? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What spills on Regan's hand? Why does this happen? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Leah try to help Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What is on Regan's shoulder? Who laughs about it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What does Regan do when she sees the frog on her shoulder? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

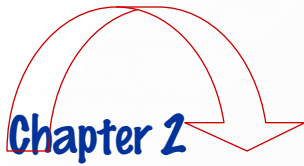
- ~ What does Noelle do about the frog on Regan's shoulder? How does this make things worse? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Regan do when the frog lands on her head? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Noelle do when the frog lands on the floor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Karla call Regan a monster? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ Karla doesn't want Noelle and Regan to switch jobs. How does Karla make sure that Noelle won't agree to do it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does the frog do when Noelle agrees with Karla? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)



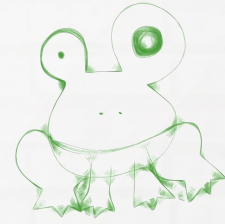
Hop on



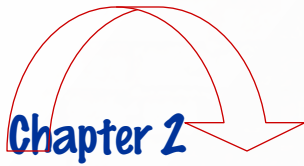
- ~ Regan isn't very concerned about the locked doors. What did you learn about her in Chapter 1 that makes this reaction believable? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan's neck gets warm after she finds out about the doors, showing she's probably more concerned than she sounds. What happened in Chapter 1 that might make her more nervous than usual? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Becca is very concerned about the locked doors. What did you learn about her in Chapter 1 that makes her reaction believable? (RL.6.1, 5L.6.5)
- ~ Compare how Regan feels about their situation with how Becca feels. Would you feel more like Becca or more like Regan? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan thinks Mrs. Kramer will be back soon. Do you agree with Regan? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What words would you use to describe Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Would you take Becca seriously? Why do you think Regan doesn't? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe the friendship between Becca and Regan. Use how they talk and respond to each other to support your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Becca appears upset, Regan makes sure her bracelet is still hidden under her sweater. What do you think is going on? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Turn to page 15, 9th paragraph: "Becca continued to scowl..." Pick a narrator and someone to read the following parts: Becca, Regan and Neil. Read aloud until you reach the 9th paragraph, page 16: "Becca shuffled out...." How does hearing this exchange make you feel about each of the characters? (RL.6.7)



Hop on (more)



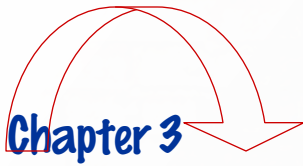
- ~ Compare how Regan treats Neil with how she acts around Connor. Why do you think this is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan's confident she can talk Noelle into switching jobs. What happens in the first scene in this chapter that makes Regan so sure? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ If the frog was on your shoulder, would you have responded like Regan did? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The poor frog has been thrown to the ground but except for Noelle's reaction, the story doesn't show much sympathy for it. Why is that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Noelle and Regan respond differently toward the frog? How would you react, like Noelle or Regan? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What do you learn about Noelle that might affect the rest of the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How do you think Karla feels about Regan? What does Karla do and say to make you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Leah feel about Regan? How does Leah feel about Noelle? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Karla doesn't want Regan and Noelle to switch jobs? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Whose reaction to Regan is more surprising – Leah's or Karla's? Use how the others respond to Regan in Chapter 1 to support your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Would you have listened to Karla? Why do you think Noelle did? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ How does this chapter give you clues about the following characters' personalities: Regan, Noelle, Karla, Leah? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Has someone tried to talk you into doing something you weren't comfortable doing? How did you respond? (RL.6.2)
- ~ Are you more likely to let certain people talk you into things? Why? (RL.6.2)
- ~ The story centers around what's important to Regan because she is the main character. How do you think this story would be told differently if Becca was the main character? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Compare Regan, Becca and Noelle by describing how each girl would respond if she found out she was moving to a new town where she didn't know anyone. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Are you more like Regan, Becca or Noelle? Explain your choice. (RL.6.1)
- ~ Do you have a friendship where one of you makes more decisions than the other? Which one are you more like, Becca or Regan? How does this friendship make you feel? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Karla's laughter is described as "harshly joyful." What would that sound like? Have everyone in your group give it a try. (RL.6.4, RL.6.7)
- ~ The frog's left eye "bulged like a zit that could explode any moment." How does this description make you feel about the frog? Point out other words that describe the frog. How do those descriptions make you feel about the frog? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Describe your bedroom in the most horrible way you can. Then describe it in an appealing way. Which description is the most accurate? (RL.6.6)





Chapter 3

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

karaoke

*"We're taking turns on the **karaoke** machine." (p. 20)*

*decay

*It smelled like major parts of it had started to **decay**. (p. 21)*

*craned

*Regan **craned** her neck to keep an eye on Connor. (p. 21)*

cranky

*Becca snorted like a **cranky** horse. (p. 22)*

*doodled

*Hadn't she **doodled** his name on every notebook she owned? (p. 22)*

*glowered

*Becca **glowered** at them all. "I'm allergic, remember?" (p. 23)*

*clattered

*The bracelet fell from her arm, rolled across the gym floor and **clattered** to a stop. (p. 23)*

apparently

*"... It must mean a lot to you. More than your best friend, **apparently**." (p. 24)*

*pathetic

*His eyebrows scooted up and down. Gross and **pathetic**, all at the same time. He could definitely use some tweezers. (p. 25)*

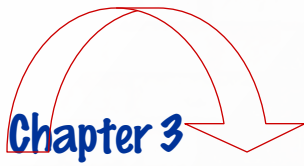
tweezers

*His eyebrows scooted up and down. Gross and pathetic, all at the same time. He could definitely use some **tweezers**. (p. 25)*

*clarify

*"Allow me to **clarify**. You are lächerlich. Foolish. And selbstsüchtig. Selfish." (p. 25)*





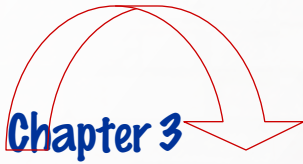
Chapter 3

Jump in



- ~ Why is Regan looking for Connor? What does she want to happen? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ When the frog hops onto Regan's foot, what does she do? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Regan sees Connor, where does she think he's headed? Where is he going instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Mayorly isn't a real word. What do you think the author meant by this made-up word? What is Noelle doing that Regan thinks isn't very mayorly? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Becca remembers seeing the janitor at their school. What was he doing? How was Noelle involved? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why isn't Regan interested in what Becca says? How do you know Regan isn't interested? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ According to Becca, what has the janitor done? Why did he do it? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How does Regan react when Becca claims the janitor locked them in on purpose? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ At this point, how long has the teacher been gone? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What is Regan's explanation for the teachers leaving them alone for so long? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Unlike Becca, Regan isn't worried about the teachers or the janitor. What is she worried about instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think Noelle is just pretending to be upset? Does Becca agree with her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 22, "Becca's face took on the color of a dirty gym sock." What would that look like and what does it mean? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Why is Becca upset about the flowers? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Regan jerk her hand away when Becca sneezes? What happens to the bracelet? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Becca react when she sees the bracelet? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Becca say when she gives the bracelet to Regan? What does she do next? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)

- ~ Why is Regan trying to look confused about Becca's reaction to seeing the bracelet? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor do after Becca runs off? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan want to be mayor even more now than she did before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan want the janitor to do? What does he do instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor call Regan? What do these words mean? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)

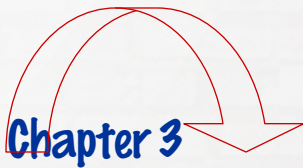


Hop on



- ~ Have someone read aloud from the beginning of this chapter on page 20 until Becca calls Regan's name on page 21. Discuss how hearing Regan's thoughts and feelings out loud make you feel about her. (RL.6.7)
- ~ In the story, the Reganites are never referred to by name, just by the group title "Reganites." Where do you suppose this name came from? Why do you think they're always referred to as a group? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan assumes Connor is looking for her? Why is she so confused when he sits next to Noelle instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan is more interested in Connor and Noelle than she is in what Becca has to say about the janitor. What do you already know about Regan that makes this reaction believable? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ On page 21, "Regan remembered the accident but she couldn't picture the man's face. Who paid that much attention to janitors?" What does this say about Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ After Becca says they've been kidnapped on page 22, "Regan laughed. Stuff like that didn't happen in real life. Not in her life anyway." What does this tell you about how Regan views her life? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Becca's and Regan's explanations for why the teacher hasn't come back. Why do you think their explanations are so different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Regan's and Becca's explanations for why Noelle is upset. Why do you think their explanations are so different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think they've been kidnapped or do you think Becca is being overly dramatic? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Regan surprised that Becca doesn't know how Regan feels about Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)

- ~ The Reganites do whatever Regan does. Why do you suppose this is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Becca sneezes on page 23, Regan “shuddered under the weight of it.” How does this show you Regan’s feelings about the sneeze landing on her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan’s upset when the bracelet flies off her wrist? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Point out two events in the previous chapters that show Regan didn’t want Becca to know about the bracelet. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why is everyone staring at Regan after Becca leaves? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does the first scene in this chapter make things worse for Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ At the beginning of the second scene, Derek, Karla, Noelle and the frog are all blamed for keeping Regan from being mayor. Discuss what’s occurred in the story that would make Regan blame each one. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What events in the previous scenes make Regan realize she needs to change Connor’s opinion of her? Why doesn’t she want him to spend any more time with Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why does Regan assume the janitor can’t hear her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ When the janitor once again speaks to Regan in a foreign language on page 25, “Fear and anger raced through Regan’s nerves. Anger won.” What does this mean? (RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Were you surprised when the janitor walked away without unlocking the door? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Discuss events in the previous scenes that lead up to the janitor ignoring Regan’s request to unlock the doors. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How does the janitor’s refusal to unlock the doors change the focus of the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across



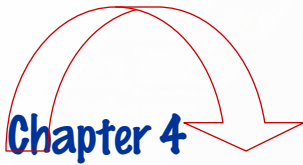
- ~ Regan tends to mess with her bracelet when she’s upset. List the things you do when you’re nervous or upset. Think about people you know. List the things they do whenever they’re upset or nervous. (RL.6.6)
- ~ The Reganites place flowers behind their ears because Regan did it first. Discuss or write about times when you’ve done something just because someone you admired did it. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)

Leap across (more)

Chapter 3

- ~ On page 23, Becca glares at the flowers “as if they were as disgusting as the frog.” People’s negative or positive descriptions can change the way we feel about things. List all the negative ways Noelle is described in this chapter. Then, without changing what happens in the story, rewrite the descriptions of Noelle in a more positive, caring or sympathetic way – perhaps the way Connor might describe her. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Mayorly is not a real word but it is a quick way to sum up what would have been a long description. List all the words that occur to you when you think of the word mayorly. (RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ Take turns showing what you think the following descriptions in the story would look like: “The Reganites pranced over” (p. 23); “Becca’s face crinkled in on itself” (p. 23); “his eyebrows scooted up and down” (p. 25); “his pinched-up mouth spread into a loose, old-man smile” (p. 25). (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Write about a time when you were embarrassed in front of your friends. How did it make you feel? What would you do differently if you had the chance to live the moment over again? (RL.6.2)





Chapter 4

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



*lopsided

The frog's **lopsided** eyes looked even eerier in the flickering glow of the streetlights. (p. 26)

eerier

The frog's lopsided eyes looked even **eerier** in the flickering glow of the streetlights. (p. 26)

*fiddled

Regan **fiddled** with her bracelet. (p. 27)

tantrum

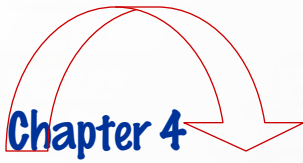
It was the first time he'd spoken to Regan since Becca threw the bracelet **tantrum**. (p. 29)



Jump in

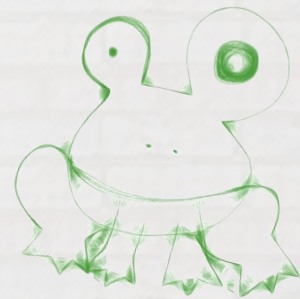
- ~ How much time do you think has passed since the last chapter? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Karla like being at Profit Town? Who else agrees with her? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Describe what the kids have done to try to get out of the gym. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Becca say that makes Noelle gasp? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan shift in her seat when Connor sits by Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe the noise they hear. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Neil think made the noise? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Connor think the noise came from inside? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Derek ask for Karla's lighter then head for the front of the gym? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What causes Karla and Becca to scream? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Derek see on the other side of the door? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Derek tell Becca he saw? What does Regan say it is instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who agrees with Regan about what's causing the noise? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Connor go down the hallway? (RL.6.1)

- ~ Why does Regan follow Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Becca want Regan to go with Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)

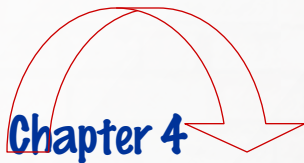


Hop on

- ~ Some of the characters might be lying about how they really feel. Which ones? What are they lying about? What makes you think they're lying? What do you think their reasons are for lying? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Derek says he likes being in the gym because there are no teachers, parents or brothers. Based on what you've learned about Derek, why do you think he sees this as a good thing? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Do you think Regan's telling the truth when she says she's not scared? What is Regan doing that shows how she really feels? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Karla seems happy to be there. Derek seems to agree with her. Do you think he really does? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why do you think Regan hides her fear? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do the others feel about Regan? How do you know? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Listen while someone reads the 7th paragraph on page 27: "Regan fiddled..." How does the sound and rhythm of this paragraph emphasize their situation? (RL.6.7)
- ~ On page 27, "Noelle gasped. Even though she sat on the very edge of the group, the sound scraped against Regan's eardrums as if she'd climbed right inside Regan's head." What do you think the author meant by that? How does it make you feel about Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ On page 28, "Noelle whimpered like a stuck kitten." What do you think this would sound like? Discuss how this simile makes you feel about Noelle. Find the simile in the next sentence and discuss Derek's feelings about Noelle. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ Which character do you like the most – Regan, Becca, Noelle, Derek, Connor or Karla? Why? (RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Which character do you like the least – Regan, Becca, Noelle, Derek, Connor or Karla? Why? (RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



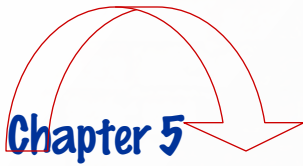
- ~ How do you feel about the frog? Why? Do you have any idea where it may have come from, why it's there or why it seems so different from a frog you'd find in your backyard? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ List all the things they've done to try to get out of the gym. Can you think of anything else they could do or try to do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What do you think is making the howling noise? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Based on what you've learned about Regan and Becca in the previous chapters, why do you suppose Becca's nervous about Regan waiting in the hallway but Regan isn't? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What happened in Chapter 3, scene 1 that makes Regan even more eager to spend time alone with Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Does this chapter focus more on plot (what's happening) or on the characters? Why do you think the author chose this focus at this point in the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across

- ~ Provide examples that show how the others look to Regan for reassurance. Why do you think this is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan tells Becca she'll be fine in the hallway. Do you think she will be? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ List the adjectives and verbs in the following quotes from the book: "The frog's lopsided eyes looked even eerier in the flickering glow of the streetlights." (p. 26) "The flame bent and flickered as he slid it across the width of the door's window." (p. 28) "Then, from the same dark corner where Derek had gone, came an ear-splitting thud, like something or someone had crashed to the ground. Karla and Becca screamed in shrilling stereo." (p. 29) "Regan watched him go. So tall. So confident. So perfect for her." (p. 29) Share how these adjectives and verbs make you feel about the characters and events in the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Because Regan is the main character, everything in the story is seen through her eyes. Find descriptions in this chapter that show how Regan feels about Connor. Find descriptions that show how she feels about Noelle. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)





Chapter 5

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



*lame

***Lame, lame, lame.** He deserved a better response than that. (p. 32)*

sympathetic

*But it was hard to sound **sympathetic** with all this envy crawling around inside her. (p. 32)*

envy

*But it was hard to sound sympathetic with all this **envy** crawling around inside her. Her mom was always home. (p. 32)*

*launched

*She cut her hand through the air and **launched** the disgusting thing against the wall. (p. 33)*

*cradled

*He scooted over, scooped the frog off the floor and **cradled** it in his palms. (p. 33)*

amphibians

*When did people start petting **amphibians**? (p. 33)*

*gracious

*She gave him her most **gracious** smile, the one she saved for the lead judges at gymnastics meets. (p. 35)*

*clenched

*Her stomach **clenched** as if he'd punched her. (p. 36)*

anticipated

*"You're all more clueless than I'd **anticipated**," the janitor said. "So. That is what I'm willing to do for you." (p. 36)*

*wisdom

*"....When it rests in your hands, it will provide you with the **wisdom** you need to find the **wisdom** you lack." (p. 36)*

*honored

*"... You don't feel **honored** they selected you...." (p. 37)*

intention

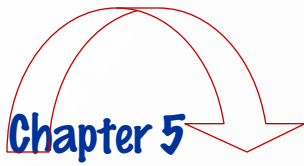
*"...And you never had any **intention** of serving them all well." (p. 37)*

neon

*His eyes glowed like blue **neon** and a thick vein pulsed at his temple. (p. 37)*

*worthy

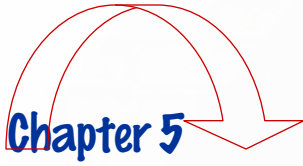
*"...You are not – nor have you ever been – a **worthy** leader...." (p. 37)*



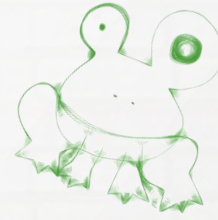
Jump in



- ~ How does the hallway remind Regan of horror movies? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Regan trying so hard to make a good impression on Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan ask Connor about his parents? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan finds out something about Connor she didn't know before. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Connor's mom work a lot? Why does this make Regan envious of him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan throw the frog off her lap? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Connor react when Regan throws the frog? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ After Connor picks up the frog, what does the frog do that makes Regan hate it even more? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Connor says he wants to get some sleep but Regan thinks he's mad at her. Why does she think he's mad? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan plan to make Connor like her as much as she likes him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is Alzheimer's Disease? Why does Regan think the janitor might have it? Why does this make her feel better? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan falls asleep but something wakes her up. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor hide behind his back? Why does this convince Regan that he has Alzheimer's Disease? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan tell the janitor she's not who he thinks she is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor say when Connor asks him if he knows Regan? Why does the janitor's answer shock and confuse Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ According to the janitor, how will the broom help them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ The janitor tells Regan it's her fault everyone is locked inside the gym. What does he say she did to cause this to happen? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ At the end of the chapter, the janitor gives Regan a strong warning. What does he say? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

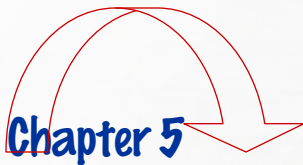


Hop on



- ~ Regan thinks Connor's attracted to Noelle. Discuss events in the story so far that show she might be right. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why does Regan decide it's okay if Connor knows she's nervous about being in the hallway? Does it work for her? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Regan's and Connor's reactions to the frog. What does this say about their different personalities? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan is upset when Connor shows concern for the frog. Discuss who else responded the same way to the frog and how this might be what's really upsetting Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think Regan likes Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think it's strange that Regan doesn't know anything about Connor's dad? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do you think Regan is feeling while she waits with Connor? List the things she does that make you think so. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare and contrast what Regan's thinking with what she's saying. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Listen while someone reads the 2nd paragraph on page 34: "Her fingers..." followed by the 9th paragraph: "Well, good...." How does the sound of each paragraph help you determine Regan's shifting mood? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Regan's afraid Connor thinks she's a horrible person. Describe the story events that might make him think this. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What does Regan plan to do when she meets the dog's owner? How did the events in this scene and the events in the first scene in Chapter 3 cause her to come up with this plan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan believes the janitor hates her. What's happened in the story to make her think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why does Regan think that if the janitor has Alzheimer's Disease he's not really angry at her? Use what you learned about the disease in the previous scene to support your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Do you think the janitor knows Regan? Do you think it's her fault they're here? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Were you surprised the janitor locked them in? Why or why not ? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

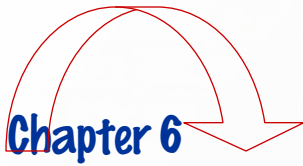
- ~ What does the janitor say the broom will do for them? Do you believe him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Compare Regan's and Connor's reaction to the broom. What does this say about their personalities? Who do you think is right? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the janitor may be more than just a janitor? Support your answer with events that happened in Chapter 1, scenes 1 and 4, both scenes in Chapter 3 and this scene. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What do you think the janitor means when he says Regan doesn't feel honored to serve them and had no intention of serving them all well? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor says if Regan doesn't become a worthy leader, this will not end well for anyone. How do you think this threat will affect the rest of the story? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How does this scene put Regan in the center of what's happened to them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across



- ~ Regan seems to have trouble talking to Connor. Have you ever felt that way around someone? Why? (RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Have you ever really liked someone even if you didn't know him/her that well? What made you decide you liked him/her? (RL.6.2)
- ~ On page 33, Regan says that not being able to tell her parents she's okay is "killing" her. She uses this exaggeration, or hyperbole, to make a point. Since this exaggeration is often used, it's also an idiom, or cliché. Think of other exaggerated statements you've used or have heard others use to make a point. (RL.6.4)
- ~ Write about a time when you were thinking something completely different from what you were actually saying. (RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Connor's relationship with his mom and Regan's relationship with her parents. Support your answers with things you've read in this chapter. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor says Regan has never been a worthy leader. Describe how you think a worthy leader should act and what kind of person a worthy leader should be. (RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor makes Regan feel "as useless as a blow dryer when the electricity is out." The author used this analogy because blow dryers are important to Regan. Think of someone you know (or yourself) and write a simile or metaphor based on what's important to this person. Start your analogy like this: "She made (PERSON'S NAME) feel as useless as (FILL IN THE REST)" (RL.6.4, RL.6.6)



Chapter 6

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



rejected

*She considered then **rejected** one escape plan after the next. (p. 39)*

appetite

*Kids sat at the tables and beside the fountain, piling popcorn into their mouths or shoving Little Debbie snack cakes down their throats. Obviously, fear hadn't affected anyone's **appetite**. (p. 39)*

saliva

*There was too much **saliva** in her mouth. She swallowed, hoping she wouldn't vomit. (p. 40)*

*rot

*"Maybe you should head on back to the bathroom. **Rot** another piece of your lungs." (p. 41)*

*annoying

*A deep buzzing noise filled Regan's ears, as **annoying** as a million bees. (p. 41)*

*obnoxious

*Karla let go with a loud, **obnoxious** laugh. (p. 41)*

despite

***Despite** the awful headache and sick feeling in her stomach, she worked up a smile. (p. 42)*

*quivering

*Noelle, **quivering** on the planter box, didn't even look up. (p. 42)*

*whirled

*Regan did her best to ignore it as she **whirled** on Neil. (p. 42)*

*shrug

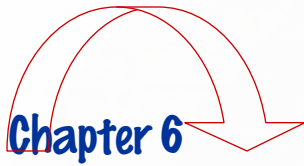
*"I wouldn't call it kidnapping," Neil said with a **shrug**. (p. 42)*

*chorus

*A **chorus** of agreement rose above the never-ending buzzing noise. (p. 43)*

flyers

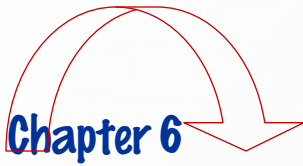
*".... I promised the janitor I'd deliver these **flyers** right after breakfast." (p. 43)*



Jump in



- ~ At the beginning of this chapter, Regan is fighting back tears. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor say to make Regan feel better? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan want to do now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor notice about the walls of the hospital? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What are the other kids doing and what are they talking about? Why does this surprise Regan and Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Derek want everyone to do as soon as they're done eating? How do the kids respond to him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Describe how Regan's feeling. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan climbs on top of a planter box to get everyone's attention. What does she tell them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan expect everyone to respond to her news? How do they respond instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who comes forward to agree with Regan about what's going on? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What does Regan say that makes Karla mad? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan expect the Reganites to do when Karla gets mad? What do they instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan hear that no one else seems to notice? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe Regan's escape plan. (RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Derek doesn't like Regan's escape plan. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What does Neil say about the janitor kidnapping them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does the Reganite say about the janitor? What does Leah say about him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ No one agrees to help carry out Regan's escape plan. What do they do instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)

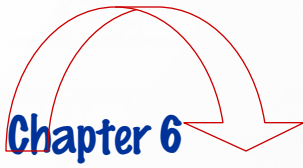


Hop on



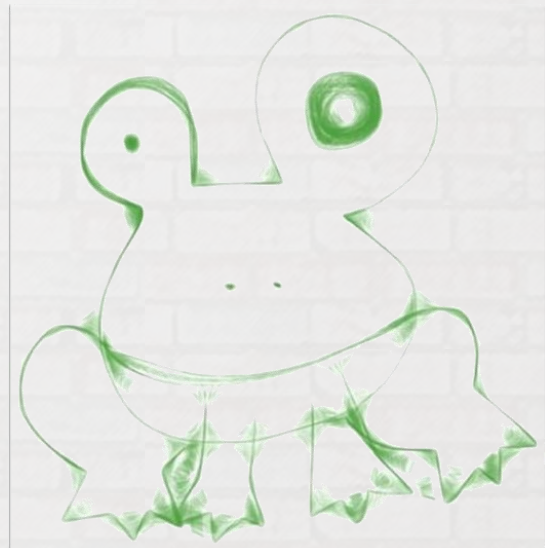
- ~ Listen while someone reads the first scene. How does the changing rhythm of the sentences help you feel Regan's shifting moods? (RL.6.7)
- ~ How does the first scene in this chapter show that Regan plans to beat the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan and Connor are surprised by what the other kids are doing. Were you? What did you expect them to be doing instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The kids are happy and pumped up when Derek asks them to shout out for the town, but in the story their excitement is described as loud and annoying. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does everyone react when Regan says the janitor locked them in? How did you expect them to react? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan grin when the frog sticks out his tongue at Karla? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss events in the story that indicate there may be something unusual about the frog. Look in Chapter 2, scene 2, Chapter 5, scene 1 and the second scene in this chapter. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think the Reganites are acting differently? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ How do the others look and sound when they talk about the janitor? What do you think is going on? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why do you think everyone's opinions and attitudes about being in the gym and about the janitor have changed? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why is Regan shocked when Derek asks Noelle for help? Support your answer with events from Chapter 1, scene 4 and Chapter 4. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ On page 42, a Reganite "nodded her head so hard it looked like she was jumping on a trampoline." How does this description make you feel about the Reganite? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare how the others treat Regan in the second scene in this chapter with how they treated her in Chapters 1, 2 and 4. Discuss what events have led to this change. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Do you think Regan's escape plan would work if she could get everyone to do it? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How has this chapter made it harder to escape than Regan thought it would be? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)


- ~ Explain the chapter ending: “The crowd scattered. Everyone looked so happy, so eager to start. And more than willing to leave Regan behind.” (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ On page 38, Connor’s eyes remind Regan of “melted chocolate.” What does this comparison tell you about Regan’s feelings toward Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Use a simile or metaphor to compare something or someone you care about to something else. Have the comparison hint at how much you care about the person or thing you’re describing. Next, think of something or someone you don’t like. Use a simile or metaphor to hint at how much you don’t like this person or thing. (RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ List the verbs used to describe what the others are doing. How do these verbs show how the others are feeling? What’s the verb used to show what Noelle’s doing? Based on that verb, how do you think Noelle is feeling? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Discuss a time when others didn’t act or respond the way you thought they would. How did it make you feel? Why were people acting differently than you expected? (RL.6.2)
- ~ The others seem to really like the janitor now. Do you think he might be a good person? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ How would you feel if you were Regan at the end of this chapter? What would you do? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What do you think is going to happen next? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)





Chapter 7

Ribbit



(RL.6.4)

gravitated

*Ever since first grade, they'd **gravitated** toward her like planets orbiting the sun. (p. 44)*

*orbiting

*Ever since first grade, they'd gravitated toward her like planets **orbiting** the sun. (p. 44)*

*lounging

*He was **lounging** in a plastic lawn chair with his feet resting in a kiddie pool. (p. 45)*

*curtsied

*Leah grinned, **curtsied**, then hustled toward the fountain. (p. 45)*

*braced

*Leah **braced** her feet against the floor, trying to twist free. (p. 45)*

*vacant

*Her eyes looked **vacant**, hollow, like she didn't see Regan at all. (p. 45)*

appear

*"Ah, Regan," said the janitor as he wiggled his bare toes under the water, "you **appear** to be a bit uncomfortable..." (p. 46)*

serene

*"...Leah seems very **serene** to me. Much happier than you, actually." (p. 46)*

*dither

*"I'm somewhat surprised you're in such a **dither** about going home...." (p. 46)*

*glistening

*For the first time, she noticed the deep-green shininess of the plants next to her, the **glistening** invitation of the water in the pool. (p. 47)*

appreciation

*A wave of deep **appreciation** washed over her and she burst into a grin. (p. 47)*

exhaling

*Regan pulled in more of the vanilla scent. Delicious. She'd never get enough of it. **Exhaling**, she asked, "Really?..." (p. 47)*

pursued

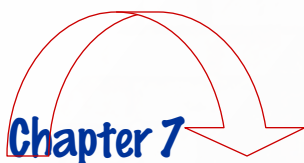
*"....She, however, has not **pursued** the problem..." (p. 47)*

enlightened

*"...If you **enlightened** Connor as to the importance of his duty to this town, it would go a long way toward showing me what kind of leader you could be...." (p. 47)*

*sloshed

*Water **sloshed** out of the bucket. (p. 48)*



Chapter 7

Jump in



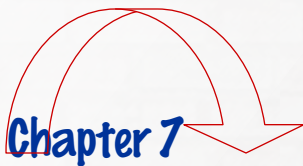
- ~ Why is Regan surprised when everyone leaves? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan need the others to listen to her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How did the Reganites get their name? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What is the janitor doing when Regan sees him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is Leah doing? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What does Regan accuse the janitor of doing to Leah? How does the janitor respond? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is the janitor surprised that Regan's missing her family? How does he describe her dad, mom and sisters? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does the janitor's description of her family make Regan even madder? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan smell in the air? How does it make her feel? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What's different about the way Regan acts after she smells the vanilla scent? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does the janitor want Regan to talk to Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why is Regan willing to do what the janitor asks? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens when Regan runs into Leah? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why are the girls so worried about the spilled water? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



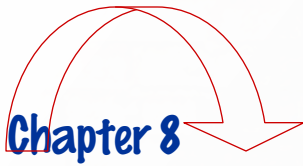
Hop on

- ~ On page 44, the Reganites "gravitated toward her like planets circling the sun." What do you think this means? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ What do you think is wrong with Leah? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Compare how Leah treats Regan on page 45 with how she treated Regan on pages 18-19. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ How does the scene between Regan and Leah expand on the previous scene and how differently the others are acting toward Regan? How does it emphasize their new feelings about the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)

- ~ Turn to page 46. Listen while three people in your class read aloud from the top of this page to the 7th paragraph: “The janitor smiled.” Assign someone to be narrator, someone to be Regan and someone to be the janitor. After listening to this conversation, compare Regan’s emotions with the janitor’s emotions. Who do you think is the most upset? Why do you think so? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Describe Regan’s family and what her life might be like at home. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan acts differently after she smells the vanilla scent? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan’s attitude toward the janitor has suddenly changed? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan agree to do what the janitor wants her to do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan thinks if she were mayor, they’d listen to her again. What do you think? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is Regan’s goal at the beginning of the second scene? What is her goal at the end of the scene? How did this scene cause such a shift in what Regan wants to accomplish? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think Regan and Leah are so upset by the spilled water? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ At the end of the chapter Regan says, “Don’t worry. Really. Everything’s just perfect.” Why do you think she said that? Do you believe her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)



- ~ Describe what the janitor and Leah are doing when Regan sees them. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan has lots of plans for making the town a better place. Do you think she’d be a good mayor? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ List the verbs on page 45 that describe Leah’s actions. List the verbs on page 45 that describe Regan’s actions. What do these verbs tell us about what each girl is feeling? Now look at the verbs on pages 45 and 46 that describe what the janitor is doing. How do you think he is feeling? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 46, Regan’s anger, “red-hot and intense, exploded against the pain already in her head.” Have you ever felt that angry? What happened that made you feel that way? How did you get over it? (RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan’s mood makes a big difference on what she notices and how she feels about the gym. Describe where you were and what you did last night in the happiest way you can. Now, describe the same thing in the angriest way you can. (RL.6.6)



Chapter 8

(RL.6.4)

eventually

“.... Everyone will give in to it **eventually**...” (p. 49)

*erupted

Regan **erupted** with laughter. (p. 50)

*dissolved

Her smile **dissolved** when she saw his scowl. (p. 50)

competitor

Listening to him was like watching a **competitor** fall off the balance beam. (p. 50)

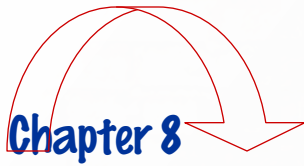
lousy

Even if Noelle changed her mind later, she was doing a **lousy** job now. (p. 51)



Jump in

- ~ Why does Regan ask Connor about the newspaper? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor think is happening to Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan think is wrong with Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor think the broom is doing for him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ How does Connor describe the spell? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ According to Connor, why is the spell working on Karla and Derek but not on Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Noelle's mom has Lupus. Why does this disease make Noelle's disappearance worse? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ What does Connor say that makes Regan think Noelle might want to be mayor someday? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Connor suddenly leave? How does this make Regan feel? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

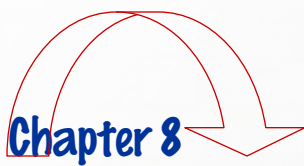


Hop on



- ~ Turn to page 49. Assign someone to be narrator, someone to be Regan and someone to be Connor. Listen while they read until the sixth paragraph on page 50: "I know it..." Does listening to this conversation outloud make Connor seem more reasonable or less reasonable? Why? (RL.6.7)
- ~ How does what happened in the previous chapter drive the action of this chapter? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think Regan wants to prove what a great leader she is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Connor believe Regan no longer cares about leaving? Do you think he's right? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why are we told about the frog licking slushy from the cup? Why would this matter right now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan feel about Connor's explanation? How do you know? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan compare Connor to someone who's falling off a balance beam? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 50, Connor tells Regan to "stop looking at me like that." What kind of expression do you think she's making? Do you think she'd react the same way if Karla was telling her about a spell? How would she react if Becca was the one to tell her? Why do you think her reactions would be the same or different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Review the events of Chapter 1. Based on these events, do you think Connor could be right about the janitor's ability to cast a spell? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Do you believe Connor's explanation? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ How does Regan feel about the broom? How do you know? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan's falling under the spell? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ If Connor's right about what causes the spell to work, do you think Regan's more likely to fall under the spell than Connor? Support you answer with details about their lives at home. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does this chapter shift Regan's focus from trying to please the janitor back to her original goal of trying to escape? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How would this scene play out differently if we were in Connor's head instead of Regan's? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)

- ~ Regan and Connor have very different ideas about what's going on. Who do you believe is right? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who do you believe the author wants us to think is right? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 51, Connor "clutched the broom to his side as if it were a sword and he was getting ready for battle." Why do you think the author used this comparison? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)

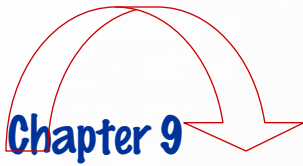


Leap across

- ~ Regan seems determined to change Connor's mind but her actions speak louder than her words. List the actions that show Regan is not really comfortable with trying to change Connor's mind. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan has little reaction to Noelle's mom's disease. She's more concerned about Noelle wanting to be mayor someday. Are you surprised by Regan's reaction? Would you have responded the same way Regan did? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Retell or rewrite the scene between Regan and Connor from Connor's point of view. Replace Regan's thoughts and opinions with Connor's thoughts and opinions. (RL.6.6)



- ~ How do you feel at the end of this chapter? Why? (RL.6.2, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan's worried that Connor's losing his mind. Do you think he is? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Connor gets up to chase a troll. What is a troll? Where else have you heard of them? (RL.6.3, RL.6.4)



Chapter 9

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

*soothe

*She closed her eyes and let the vanilla smell **soothe** it all away. (p. 54)*



*confided

*"I like it here though," she continued, because friends **confided** in each other and Noelle had to think of her as a friend. (p. 54)*

*hovered

*Noelle's hand **hovered** above the frog's back. (p. 54)*

dangled

*Chunks of tile **dangled** down into the bathroom. (p. 55)*

pastel

*It glistened on the chrome faucets, danced on the mirror, turned the frog's skin **pastel** green. (p. 55)*

protest

*Regan's head pounded in **protest**. (p. 56)*

wincing

***Wincing**, Regan covered her ears. (p. 56)*

*barreled

*An orange streak **barreled** past, winding its way through the girls' feet. (p. 58)*

huddled

*Whatever it was slid under the furthest bathroom stall and **huddled** in the corner. (p. 58)*

*smirk

*He sat up with an irritating **smirk**. (p. 58)*

exception

*"But," he said, puffing out his chest and glancing at Karla, "since you're so upset, I'll make an **exception**...." (p. 58)*

*swaggered

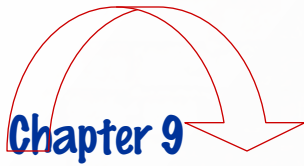
*He **swaggered** across the gym like he was the hero and Regan was the helpless victim trailing behind. (p. 58)*

*mangy

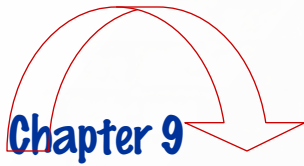
*A mass of **mangy**, tangled hair draped over the collar of his khaki-colored raincoat. (p. 59)*

*protruded

*Bear-like claws **protruded** from the tips of his hairy fingers. (p. 59)*



- ~ What is Regan thinking about when the pressure builds up in her ears? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What makes the pressure in Regan's head go away? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ The others are treating Regan differently. Why does Regan blame Noelle for this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Regan leaves the hospital, what does she plan to do? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Becca upset? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Where does Becca want Regan and Noelle to go? Why? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What's strange about the bathroom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does the sunlight in the bathroom bother Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan drink from the bathroom's faucet? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Becca see in the hallway? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What is Regan's newest escape plan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Becca want to leave the bathroom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Describe Regan's reason for not giving Becca her bracelet. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Noelle think they should do about the animal Becca saw? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What happens when Regan opens the door? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why do the girls go to the Exercise Center? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What is blocking the bathroom's door? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What happens when Derek tries to catch the strange-looking man? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)



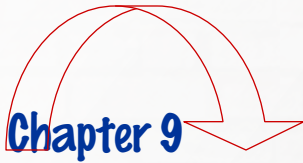
Chapter 9

Hop on



- ~ Listen while someone reads aloud, starting on page 53 with the 3rd paragraph: “Thinking about...” and ending with the 1st paragraph on page 54: “Ugh...” How does hearing Regan’s thoughts read out loud help you feel her different moods? (RL.6.7)
- ~ What is Regan’s goal at the beginning of this chapter? What is her goal at the end? What causes the shift in goals? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think Regan’s feeling better when she wakes up? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does the frog remind Regan of the Reganites? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan’s attitude toward the frog is changing? Why or why not? If you do think her attitude’s changing, then what do you think is causing this change? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Regan surprised that no one’s come looking for her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does the first scene move time forward? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How does the author use the first scene to summarize and remind readers what came before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ In the second scene, Regan is trying to convince Noelle to change jobs again. What happened in Chapter 7, scene 2 that causes her to do this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ How do you know Regan is uncomfortable talking to Noelle? Why is she uncomfortable? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Becca interrupt Regan’s goal of convincing Noelle to change jobs? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What do you think caused the hole in the bathroom ceiling? Why do you suppose it looks so different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Becca says she saw a fox but Regan doesn’t believe her. Why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What do you think is causing the buzzing in Regan’s ears? Do you think anyone else can hear it? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Becca’s still upset about the bracelet? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ At first, Derek doesn’t seem like he wants to help them. What do you think changes his mind? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think Becca agrees with Noelle but Regan doesn’t? (RL.6.2, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)

- ~ On page 57, Becca speaks to Regan “in a voice no Reganite had ever used on Regan before.” What do you think this means? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare how Derek treats Regan in the fourth scene with how he treated her in Chapter 1, scene 4. (RL.6.1)
- ~ Who or what do you think the strange-looking man is? (RL.6.1)
- ~ On page 59, “Regan’s heart felt like a woodpecker hammering its way out of her chest.” What do you think this means? Have you ever felt that way before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Discuss what you know about Becca, Noelle and Derek that explains each one’s response to the strange-looking man. (RL.6.1)
- ~ Where do you think all the animals are coming from? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How do the events in this chapter make it even more necessary for them to escape the gym? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across

- ~ Describe what the bathroom looks like. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Pull details and descriptions from the story that make it hard to take Becca seriously. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ On page 58, Derek is described like this: “He swaggered across the gym like he was the hero and Regan was the helpless victim trailing behind.” How does this make you feel about Derek? How does it make you feel about Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan feel about Noelle, Becca or Derek? Pick one character then pull details from this chapter to support your answer. Do you feel the same way Regan does? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Noelle to someone you know. How are they alike? How are they different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)



Ribbit



Chapter 10

(RL.6.4)

*shreds

*Those claws could rip them to **shreds**. (p. 60)*

logically

*Think realistically. **Logically**. (p. 60)*

*bombarded

*She'd tasted all the food she'd eaten here and her nose had been **bombarded** with smells. (p. 60)*

concentrate

Concentrate. One thing at a time. (p. 60)

dense

*They couldn't be that **dense**, could they? (p. 61)*

bizarre

*It was worse than **bizarre**; it was frightening. (p. 61)*

convince

*The thought of trying to **convince** him made her head pound harder. (p. 62)*

enthusiasm

*She didn't have Neil's strength but she did have **enthusiasm**. (p. 63)*

tensed

*Regan's whole body **tensed**. The pressure in her head bore down, clamping onto her brain. (p. 63)*

*jutted

*The Reganite flinched then **jutted** out her chin. (p. 64)*



Jump in

~ Describe why Regan doesn't think this can be a dream. Why can't it be real either? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

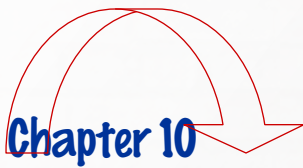
~ What is Regan's explanation for the strange-looking man? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

~ How do the others respond to Regan's explanation for the strange-looking man? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

~ Why does Regan think everyone's gone crazy? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

~ Why is Regan afraid she can't trust her own mind? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ Connor told Regan the janitor put them all under a spell. Why doesn't she believe it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is Regan trying to convince Neil to do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Neil say and why does it upset Regan so much? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does the Reganite refuse to help Regan with the escape plan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ The Reganite said the janitor warned them about Regan. What did he say Regan might do and why might she do it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why is Regan surprised when the Reganite says Regan only cares about herself? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

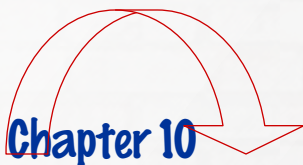


Hop on



- ~ Assign someone to read aloud from the beginning of the chapter on page 60 to the end of the first paragraph on page 61: "So if it...." Ask the reader to make full stops at each period. Then discuss how the rhythm and length of the sentences help you hear the changing speeds of Regan's thoughts. (RL.6.7)
- ~ If you were there, would you be worried about the strange-looking man? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Regan tries to come up with a reasonable, logical explanation for the strange-looking man. Discuss other times in the story when Regan tries to make sense out of things that seem unusual or creepy. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Do you think Connor is right about the spell? What makes you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan thinks the strange-looking man is the janitor in a costume, but no one agrees with her. Why do you think this is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Does Regan's explanation for the strange-looking man make sense to you? Do you think she's right? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan mean when she says she can't trust her own mind? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan worries she can't trust her own mind. Discuss times when she acted like she belonged in or cared about Profit Town. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Noelle thinks the janitor is extremely dangerous. Do you? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How does the Reganite react to Regan's newest escape plan? Is this different from how the Reganite would normally respond? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ How do you think Regan feels about the Reganites? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor said Regan only cares about herself. Do you think he's right? Why or why not? Why do you think the Reganite agrees with him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss how the events in the story have changed Neil's reaction to Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Discuss how the events in the story have changed who and what the Reganites are loyal to. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ This chapter questions what kind of person Regan is. Do you know Regan well enough to decide if the Reganite and the janitor are right about her? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan starts wondering about the teachers but then refuses to think about them any longer. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Assign a narrator, someone for Regan and someone for a Reganite. Then listen as they read from page 63, 6th paragraph: "Regan waved...." to the end of the chapter. Can you hear each girl's anger build? How? (RL.6.7)
- ~ How does this chapter make Regan even more determined to beat the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across

- ~ Explain who you think sounds more reasonable, Connor or Regan. Pull details from this chapter to support your opinion. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Connor is willing to believe in the spell but Regan isn't. Why not? Are you more like Regan or more like Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Pull things from this chapter that show Regan is starting to believe in the spell even though she doesn't want to. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss which you think Regan values more – imagination or logic. Why do you think so? Which do you value more? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor said Regan only cares about herself. List all the things you know about Regan that show he might be right. List all the things you know about Regan that show he might be wrong. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)



Chapter 11

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



initiative

*"I applaud your **initiative**, but you're wasting time...." (p. 66)*

effective

*"...You really believe you'd be an **effective** leader if only you were mayor, don't you?..." (p. 67)*

intense

*The blue in his eyes flickered like lights on a Christmas tree. Way too **intense** for an old man. (p. 67)*

effort

*The next table seemed easier to move and the ones after that took almost no **effort** at all. (p. 68)*

hoisted

*They counted to three then **hoisted** it up. (p. 68)*

*wispy

*After they positioned it where it needed to go, Regan gazed once again at the brilliantly blue sky, the **wispy** clouds. (p. 69)*

*pulverizing

*"I didn't know you guys were **pulverizing** them. What good is that going to do?" (p. 71)*

*brittle

*The smooth polished wood was cold against her palm. Her fingers felt **brittle**. Numb. (p. 71)*

*drizzled

*What was left of the table leg **drizzled** through her fingers and seeped across the floor. (p. 71)*



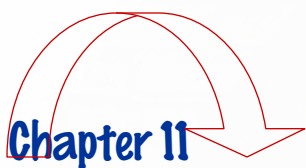
Jump in

- ~ What are they moving across the gym floor? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Connor think most of the kids have refused to help Regan with her escape plan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Connor says the strange-looking man was the beast. Why does this confuse and upset Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor say when he sees the hole in the bathroom ceiling? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who does Noelle see when she looks down the hallway? (RL.6.1)

- ~ The janitor seems to know Regan's plan. Why does he say it won't work? What does he say she should be concerned about instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan's happy to see the birds through the hole in the ceiling. Why is Becca worried about them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens to Regan when she starts climbing down the mound of tables? Why does it worry her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who tries to stop them from moving more tables? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What do they see when they get back to the bathroom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What happens to the table leg when Regan picks it up? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

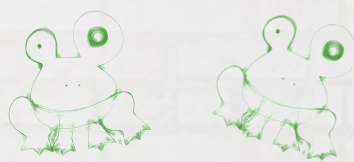


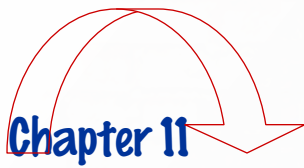
- ~ Everyone watches them move the tables but no one agrees to help. Connor thinks it's because of the spell. Regan says it's because they're busy. What do you think? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan says the others won't listen to her because she's just a waitress. Do you agree with this? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Connor knows who or what the strange-looking man is? If so, how do you think he knows? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Connor say when he sees the hole? What do you think he means? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Turn to page 66. Assign different readers for the narrator, Regan, the janitor and Noelle. Listen as they read aloud, starting from page 66, 11th paragraph: "Regan turned..." until the last full paragraph on page 67: "Your hopes..." Compare the conversation between Regan and the janitor with the conversation between the janitor and Noelle. How does each one sound? How does hearing them out loud help you figure out how each character is feeling? (RL.6.7)
- ~ On page 66, Regan thinks this about Connor: "Even though he'd lost his mind and couldn't help himself, Regan had had just about enough of him." How does this make you feel about Connor? Do you think Connor has lost his mind? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)



Hop on (more)

- ~ Regan blames the frog's smell for making her eyes sting. Do you think this is really what's causing her eyes to water? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor tells Regan he hasn't seen any improvement in her ability to lead the others. Do you agree with him? If so, what do you think Regan could do to be a better leader? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 67, when Regan sees the janitor, "the blue in his eyes flickered like lights on a Christmas tree." What do you think this would look like? What do you think it might mean? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Why does it bother Regan when the tables feel lighter and when her foot goes all the way through one? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 68, Regan says, "at least Noelle has a mom worth missing." What did you learn about Regan's life in Chapter 5, scene 1 that might explain why she says this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ On page 70, Karla is standing next to Derek, cracking her knuckles. How does this image of Karla make you feel about her? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How do you feel when Regan gets closer to the hole? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare what they see and hear through the hole this time with what they saw through the hole in Chapter 9, scene 3. What do you think is going on? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Derek and Karla have teamed up in this chapter. Were you surprised? Support your answer with events from Chapter 2, scene 2, Chapter 4 and Chapter 9, scene 4. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why do you think the tables broke apart? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why do you think Regan's fingers feel brittle and numb when she grabs the table leg? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss how the scenes in this chapter develop and end Regan's new plan for escaping the gym. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)





Leap across

- ~ Describe what the others are doing at the beginning of this chapter. How do these actions compare to what Regan's feeling or wants to do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan surprises herself when she blurts out, "at least Noelle has a mom worth missing." Were you surprised when she said this? Support your answer with things you've learned about Regan's home life. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan thinks Connor and Noelle are both weird about their mothers. Do you think so? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Based on the conversation at the door between the kids and the janitor, how would you describe the following characters: Connor, Regan, Noelle, the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor thinks Regan could be a better leader. If you were there and knew how to escape, how would you get the others to help you? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Becca's worried that there are so many birds outside and no traffic sounds. Would this worry you too? Why or why not? What do you think it might mean? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Compare what happened to the table leg with something you've seen before. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)



Ribbit

Chapter 12

(RL.6.4)

insisted

*But everyone had **insisted** the mayor should sleep on the cot. (p. 72)*

denying

*There was no **denying** they were treating her differently here. (p. 72)*



blissfully

*Even the frog, tucked against her stomach, seemed **blissfully** unaware. (p. 73)*

reeled

*Regan's head **reeled** as Becca led her down the street, past the hospital, past where the bathrooms used to be. (p. 74)*

*pillars

*Wide, white **pillars** supported the porch's roof. (p. 75)*

*cackle

*A high-pitched **cackle** drowned out Becca's voice. (p. 77)*

situation

*Actually, now that Regan thought about it, this whole **situation** should have thrown Becca into a huge panic. (p. 77)*

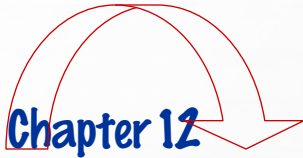
panic

*Actually, now that Regan thought about it, this whole situation should have thrown Becca into a huge **panic**. (p. 77)*

Jump in

- ~ Why is Regan sleeping on the floor of the exercise center? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The others have been treating Regan differently. Why does she think they are? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What wakes Regan up in the middle of the night? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What's different when Regan wakes up the next day? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Becca's found something she says is perfect for Regan. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why does Becca think the house she found is meant for the mayor? Why does she think Regan should take it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Regan like about the house? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ Why isn't Becca worried anymore? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does the broom change Becca's feelings about the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ How does the change in Becca's behavior finally convince Regan that the spell is real? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)

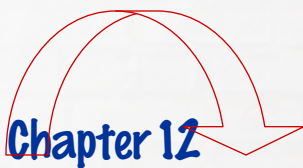


Hop on



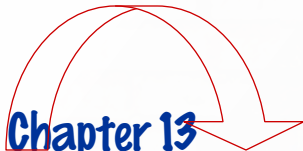
- ~ Why do the others think Noelle deserves the cot? Do you agree with them? Why doesn't Regan agree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan has any respect for Noelle? Support your answer with events from Chapters 2, 4, 5, scene 1, Chapter 6, scene 2, Chapter 7, scene 2 and Chapter 9, scene 2. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ On page 72, Regan "had to curl up in a ball in order to fit" on the floor of the exercise center. What does this say about her changing status? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan convinces herself she doesn't need to be mayor to win the others' respect. Do you agree? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan no longer cares that the frog is sleeping next to her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the noises Regan hears that night are real? Why do you think the others sleep right through it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Have someone read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 74. How does hearing these paragraphs make you feel? Do you think this is how Regan is feeling? Why or why not? (RL.6.7)
- ~ How would you feel if you woke up in a completely different place? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Were you surprised when the town turned real? Discuss events that hinted this might happen. Look in Chapter 3, scene 1, Chapter 6, scene 2, Chapter 9, scene 3, Chapter 11 and the previous scene in this chapter to support your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ When Regan finds herself in a real town, she feels happy and free. Is this how you expected her to feel? Why do you think she feels this way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 75, when Regan walks through the town, "her heart recognized it as if she were coming home after a long, boring vacation." What do you think this means? Have you ever felt that way before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan thinks Becca's still upset about the bracelet. How does she plan to make Becca feel better? Do you think that will work? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ How does Becca react when they hear the high-pitched laughter? Why is Regan surprised by the way Becca reacts? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan is surprised by Becca's calm acceptance of the witch-like laugh. Were you? Support your answer with what you learned about Becca's personality in Chapters 1, 2, Chapter 3, scene 1 and Chapter 4. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Becca thinks the janitor wants to help them. What do you think? (RL.6.1)
- ~ On page 78, Regan threw the red sweater against the wall and buried her face in the pillows. What do you think she's feeling? How would you feel if you were Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Describe the noises in the night. How do they make you feel? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Pick out words that describe the town. How do these words make you feel? Why do you think the author wanted you to feel this way about the town? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5)
- ~ How does Regan feel about the house Becca found for her? Why? How does the description let you know how Regan feels about it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Would the high-pitched laughter make you nervous? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Do you think there is a spell? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)



Chapter 13

Ribbit



(RL.6.4)

exhausting

*It was so **exhausting** at home, trying to get noticed, trying to – just once – make her mom proud enough to say something nice. (p. 80)*

impress

*She'd never **impress** her mom. (p. 80)*

transforming

*Things could have been **transforming** all along. The hole in the bathroom ceiling could have been the last step before the ceilings completely disappeared. (p. 81)*

reasonable

*A couple days ago a thought like that would never have crossed Regan's mind. Now it seemed almost **reasonable**. (p. 81)*

*puckered

*The janitor's lips **puckered** into a tight smile. (p. 82)*

devastated

*"Chin up, Regan," he said. "Don't look so **devastated**..." (p. 82)*

progressing

*".... You're **progressing**. You've managed to forgive your mother." (p. 82)*

entices

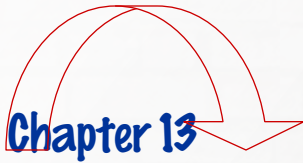
*"Profit Town no longer **entices** you..." (p. 82)*



Jump in

- ~ Why does Regan think Becca may not be that eager to go back home? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What events in the story make Regan realize she was falling under the janitor's spell? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan like about Profit Town? What does she hate about it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The way the others are acting reminds Regan of her mom. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan wish her mom would say to her? Why does she think her mom will never say it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

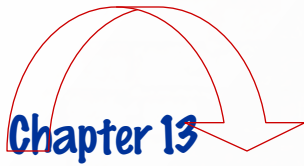
- ~ What does Regan plan to do when she gets home? Why does she want the frog to see her do it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think the town may have been changing all along? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan want the janitor's book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor do when Regan tries to grab his book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ According to the janitor, why won't Regan be able to leave Profit Town? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor say Regan must do to get past the monsters? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does the janitor know Regan is making progress? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What was causing Regan to feel sick and hear buzzing in her ears? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Where does the janitor think Regan should be going? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor says Regan will never be a good leader. Why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Hop on



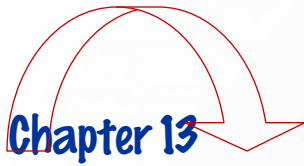
- ~ Regan describes the way the others are treating her as “achingly familiar.” What do you think she means by that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan cuts off her thoughts about her home life by saying “whatever”? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss events that indicate Regan isn't happy with her mom. Look in Chapter 5, scene 1, Chapter 7, scene 2 and Chapter 11, scene 1. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What does quitting gymnastics and taking karate mean to Regan? What do you think it will mean to Regan's mom? Do you think this decision might change how she's treated at home? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think the janitor comments on Regan's bracelet? What do you think this bracelet might symbolize? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ The second scene in this chapter introduces a new kind of trouble. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan hated the frog in the beginning but here she protects it from the janitor. Trace Regan's changing attitude toward the frog throughout the story. Look in Chapter 2, scene 2, Chapter 4, Chapter 6, scene 2, Chapter 7, scene 1, Chapter 8, Chapter 9, scene 1, Chapter 11, scene 1, and Chapter 13, scene 1. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Hop on (more)

- ~ Turn to page 82. Assign a narrator, someone for Regan and someone for the janitor. Listen as they read to the end of the chapter. How does hearing this conversation out loud make you feel about Regan? How does it make you feel about the janitor? (RL.6.7)
- ~ On page 82, when the janitor asks Regan if she's forgetting something, his voice is "like syrup, too thick, too sweet." What do you think this sounds like? Why do you think he sounds this way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Do you think there are monsters patrolling the edge of the town? Why? (RL.6.1)
- ~ The janitor tells Regan she'll have to dust off her brain to fight the monsters. What do you think he means by this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Why do you think Regan forgiving her mom is considered progress in the janitor's eyes? Why do you think it's helped her fight off the spell? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Fighting the janitor's spell has been making Regan sick. Review the times in the story when Regan wasn't feeling well. What made her feel better? What do you think the vanilla smell really was? Look in Chapter 6, scene 2, Chapter 7, scene 2, Chapter 9, Chapter 10, scene 2, Chapter 12, scene 2 and the previous scene in this chapter. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Do you think Regan has disappointed Becca? If so, in what way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think the janitor says it isn't wise for Regan to disappoint Becca again? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor tells Regan, "You're never going to be a good leader. You're not even much of a friend." Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Look in Chapter 1, scene 3, Chapter 2, Chapter 3, scene 1, Chapter 4, Chapter 9 and Chapter 12, scene 2 to support your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)





Leap across

- ~ List what Regan likes about living in Profit Town. List what she hates about it. Would you like being there or would you hate it? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do you think Regan feels about her home life? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 80, Regan thinks that “maybe the only person she needed to impress was herself.” What does this statement mean to you? Do you agree or disagree with it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Regan to someone you know. How are they alike? How are they different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan wants the janitor’s book because she knows he doesn’t want her to have it. Discuss a time when you felt the same way. (RL.6.1)
- ~ Pretend like you’re Becca. The only way you can fight off the spell is to forgive your parents for making you babysit all the time. Start off with talking about how angry baby-sitting makes you and keep going until you work it out and accept the situation like Regan did. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)





Chapter 14

(RL.6.4)

brewed

*Regan's anger **brewed** and boiled as she passed house after house. (p. 84)*

soil

*Twice she tripped over roots poking through the **soil**. (p. 85)*

*tatters

*Pieces of her dress streamed out from her arms in blue and green **tatters**. (p. 86)*

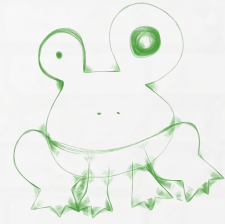
*murky

*She landed hard, surrounded by a puddle of **murky** water. (p. 86)*

drenched

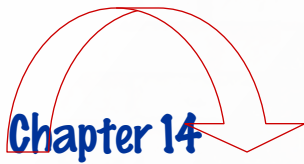
*Her hair and clothes were **drenched**. (p. 86)*

Rabbit



Jump in

- ~ Why is Regan so angry at the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ According to Connor, why has the town become real? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Regan says it might be better this way. Why does she think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Where are Regan and Connor going? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan consider this a pretty good day? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan think the howl in the woods might be? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does the old woman knock Regan to the ground? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is Connor doing to the old woman and why does Regan want him to stop? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan think has happened to Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan run away? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)

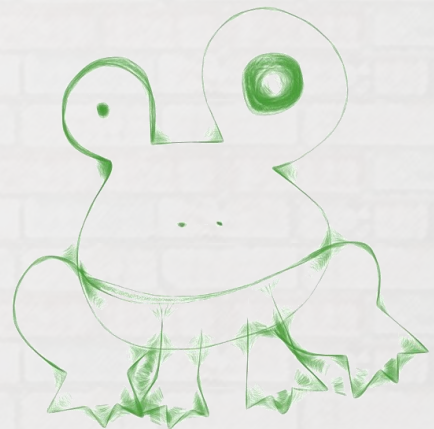


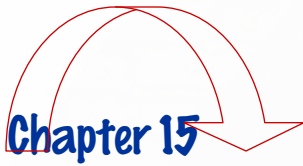
Hop on

- ~ Have someone read the first paragraph of this chapter. Based on the sounds, the rhythm and tone of the words, how do you think Regan is feeling? (RL.6.7)
- ~ How do you feel about what the janitor said to Regan? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 84, Regan “knocked her knees” against Connor’s. What do you think this shows? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Regan and Connor start walking in the woods, how do you feel? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think Connor’s smarter than she thought he was? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who do you think the old woman is? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Compare how Regan and Connor react to the old woman. What does this say about their personalities? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Connor’s dead? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What do you think is going to happen next? (RL.6.1)



- ~ If you were there, would you behave more like Regan or more like Connor? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe the woman’s actions. How do her actions make you feel about her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Do you think Connor was right to attack the old woman? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Describe what you think would have happened if Regan tried to fight the old woman. (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)





Chapter 15

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



expanded

*His name echoed through her mind while a lump **expanded** in her throat, taking up all the room inside her, making it impossible to breathe. (p. 88)*

*trickled

*She'd meant to shout the explanation but instead it **trickled** out, not much louder than a whisper. (p. 89)*

frustration

*She lifted it above her head then threw it hard, using all the anger and **frustration** and hurt and fear that coiled within her. (p. 89)*

*coiled

*She lifted it above her head then threw it hard, using all the anger and frustration and hurt and fear that **coiled** within her. (p. 89)*

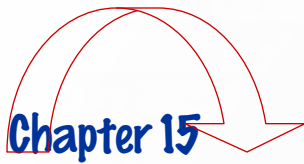
unsatisfying

*It should have sailed for miles. Instead, it landed with a soft, **unsatisfying** plop, just a few feet away. (p. 89)*



Jump in

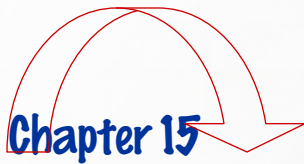
- ~ Why does Regan stop running? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What does Regan think is going to happen when she hears the noise in the woods? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who comes up behind Regan? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why is Connor angry with Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why didn't Regan try to save Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why did Connor think he could fight the woman with a broom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan throw the broom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)



Hop on

- ~ On page 88, Regan thinks, “There was nowhere to go anyway. It was just a matter of time before she ended up like... Connor.” What do you think this means? Why do you think the author used ellipses (three dots in a row) to separate Connor’s name from the rest of the sentence? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Regan sees Connor’s expression, on page 89, “the grin fell from her face. She dropped her arms to her sides.” Based on this description, how do you think Regan feels? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Look at the 4th paragraph on page 89: “I did not!....” In this paragraph, the author uses several graphical cues to indicate how Regan sounds. The exclamation point indicates excited emotion; the em dash (long line) indicates a sudden break in thought, interrupted by another thought; the ellipses (three dots in a row) indicate a trailing off of voice and the italics indicate a extra force and sound. Using these cues, read the paragraph the way the author intended it to sound. (RL.6.7)
- ~ When Regan’s explaining why she ran away, she wants to shout at Connor. Why do you think it comes out as a whisper instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Connor has a right to be upset with Regan? Why or why not? Would you be upset with her if you were Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Was Regan right to run away? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan shiver when Connor says the broom will save them? Why does she throw the broom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Regan’s actions toward the broom with Connor’s reaction to the broom on pgs. 35-39. How do their responses to the broom show how each of them feel about the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)





Leap across

- ~ On page 88, Regan's feelings are explained like this: "His name echoed through her mind while a lump expanded in her throat, taking up all the room inside her, making it impossible to breathe. She pictured him falling, over and over again." How do you feel when you read this? Have you ever felt this way before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Connor thinks the broom will protect and save them. Regan thinks it's worthless. Who do you think is right and why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ After Regan throws the broom, the chapter ends like this: "It should have sailed for miles. Instead, it landed with a soft, unsatisfying plop, just a few feet away. But it was enough." What do you think this means? What do you think is going to happen now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ What do you think Regan is feeling at the end of this chapter? How would you feel if you were her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)





Chapter 16

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



*suctioned

*She couldn't back away; she couldn't even blink. Like she was **suctioned** to the ground. (p. 90)*

*deflating

*Connor slumped his shoulders, **deflating** like a punctured balloon. (p. 91)*

*punctured

*Connor slumped his shoulders, deflating like a **punctured** balloon. (p. 91)*

capable

*"...Neither one of them has any idea what I'm **capable** of...." (p. 91)*

*jabbed

*She swung the knife above her head then **jabbed** it at the apple. (p. 91)*

injury

*After guiding Regan into a chair, she bent over the **injury** again. (p. 92)*

*poised

*The frog was already there, **poised** over a cookie-filled plate. (p. 95)*

fastened

*Regan shook her head then **fastened** the bangle over Becca's wrist. (p. 96)*

bangle

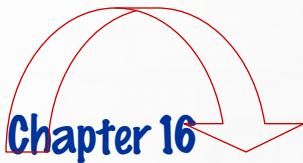
*Regan shook her head then fastened the **bangle** over Becca's wrist. (p. 96)*



Jump in

- ~ Why does the janitor come? Why is he so angry? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What happens to the broom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why is Connor upset? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why does Regan go to the hospital? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is it a good thing that Noelle's at the hospital? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why doesn't Noelle want to be mayor anymore? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Noelle tell Regan about Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why did Regan keep the bracelet for herself? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ Right before she leaves the hospital, what advice does Regan give Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Regan going to Becca's house? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ When Regan gets to Becca's house, she's reminded of something she forgot to do. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the frog do at Becca's house? How do the girls respond? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan give to Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Becca notice about Regan's wrist? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

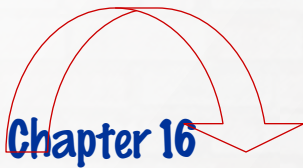


Hop on




- ~ The janitor is always carrying a book. What do you suppose it is? (RL.6.1)
- ~ On page 91, Connor is described as "deflating like a punctured balloon." What would that look like? How does it tell you how Connor feels? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Connor's worried they won't survive without the broom. Regan thinks the broom is unimportant. What do you think? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Listen while someone reads aloud on page 91, from the first paragraph in the new scene: "Lunchmeat.." to the 4th paragraph: "If only..." Discuss how the rhythm and sound help move the actions and Regan's thoughts. (RL.6.7)
- ~ Why does Regan believe she has to figure out how to escape without anyone else's help? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan think the janitor and her mom have in common? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 92, "Noelle's voice swam through Regan's brain." What do you think the author meant by this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Turn to page 93. Starting with the second paragraph: "'How did it happen?' ... until the end of the scene, assign different readers for the narrator, Regan and Noelle. How does hearing this conversation make you feel about Regan? How does it make you feel about Noelle? Why? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Why do you think Regan doesn't answer when Noelle asks what happened to Regan's hand? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan feel about Noelle? Why? How does Noelle feel about Regan? How do you know? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ Do you think Becca has a right to be upset about the bracelet? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ When Regan says Becca could afford to buy her own bracelet, Noelle says, “But maybe it wouldn’t mean the same thing if she didn’t get it from you.” What does she mean by that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the janitor’s right – has Regan really not been much of a friend to Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think Noelle is falling for the spell? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan decides to warn Noelle about the janitor when she didn’t warn her before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan tell Noelle to keep thinking about her mom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare the events and Regan’s actions regarding the bracelet in the following scenes: Chapter 2, scene 2, Chapter 3, scene 1, Chapter 5, scene 1, Chapter 9, scene 3, Chapter 12, scene 2, Chapter 13, scene 2, and the last two scenes in this chapter. Discuss how the bracelet symbolizes Regan’s and Becca’s friendship. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across

- ~ Based on Connor’s reaction, Regan may later regret throwing the broom. Discuss a time when you did something because you were upset then regretted it later. (RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss a time when you were sure you were right and then wondered whether you were because of the way others reacted. (RL.6.2)
- ~ On page 92, Noelle talks non-stop about the injured animals she’d helped but we don’t hear her exact words. Write the exact words Noelle may have said. (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ Describe what Regan did when she got to Becca’s house. How does this set the mood? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan should have given the bracelet to Becca? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Chapter 17



(RL.6.4)

*bulging

*She reached in further and wrapped her fingers around its **bulging** middle. (p. 97)*

drastically

*Something was **drastically**, horribly wrong. (p. 98)*

dreading

*Inch by inch, she opened her fist, **dreading** what she'd done but unable to look away. (p. 98)*

*confetti

*A million different pieces, with all the colors of **confetti**, escaped from her hand like backwards rain. (p. 98)*

aching

*She'd cried so many tears she felt wet and heavy inside, everything **aching** and used up. (p. 98)*

*looming

*The sun was so bright all she could see was a dark shape **looming** above her. (p. 98)*

heartless

*There was just no end to the janitor's **heartless** nastiness. (p. 99)*

*clucked

*The janitor **clucked** his tongue. (p. 99)*

appearances

*"It is unfortunate," he said, grinding out the words, "that you still refuse to see beyond **appearances**...." (p. 99)*

horrific

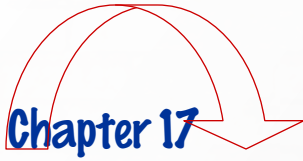
*"...Enjoy your afternoon, Regan. Your night is going to be **horrific**." (p. 99)*



Jump in

- ~ Something's missing when Regan gets back to her house. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Where does Regan find the frog? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens when Regan grabs the frog? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan compare to the frog breaking apart? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does the janitor congratulate Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)

- ~ What does Regan say to the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor say to Regan after she yells at him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Hop on



- ~ Regan hated the frog in the beginning of the story. Why is she upset when it runs off now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Throughout the story, the frog wouldn't leave Regan's side, no matter how many times she kicked it away. Why do you think it leaves her now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think what happened to the frog was Regan's fault? Explain. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ After the frog explodes, Regan's afraid something like that may happen to all of them. Do you think it will? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Assign readers for the narrator, Regan and the janitor. Turn to page 99 and listen while the assigned readers read their parts. After hearing this conversation, who do you think is the most upset, Regan or the janitor? Who do you think is going to win? Why? (RL.6.7)
- ~ What does Regan say to the janitor that gets him so upset? What do you think is going to happen now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ What do you think the janitor means when he says Regan doesn't see beyond appearances? Do you think he's right about her? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)

Leap across

- ~ After the frog explodes, Regan "felt wet and heavy inside, everything aching and used up." Have you ever felt like that before? What made you feel that way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan want the janitor to see her after the frog explodes? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the janitor knew what was going to happen to the frog? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Describe something in your life that you didn't like at first but grew to care for over time. What made you change your mind about it? (RL.6.2)



Chapter 18

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



*scampered

Now she **scampered** down the stairs and flung the door out of the way. (p. 100)

bulky

Their **bulky** shorts were way too shiny and way too tight at their knees. (p. 101)

*horrendous

Or maybe they worked at a restaurant that required them to wear **horrendous** costumes. (p. 101)

*whimpered

The blonde **whimpered**. (p. 101)

*blousy

When he turned back, his face was whiter than his **blousy**, ruffled shirt. (p. 101)

*stubble

The boys had to be in high school, at least. She could tell by their size, by the **stubble** on their cheeks. (p. 102)

*wringing

The blonde was **wringing** his hands. (p. 103)

shards

Shards from the window and splinters from the house pierced her shoulders. (p. 103)

massive

Regan shrank back and looked up, up the hairy arm to a **massive** shoulder and a monstrous face with canoe-sized lips. (p. 104)

impact

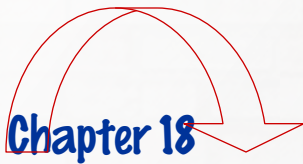
And then she hit something so hard, so fast, the **impact** jarred her teeth. (p. 105)



Jump in

- ~ Who is at Regan's front door? Who was she expecting? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Regan so happy to see the boys? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan like about the boys? What doesn't she like about them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Something about Regan makes the boys cry. What is it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

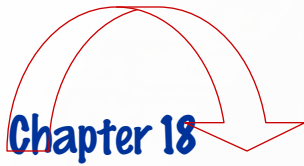
- ~ Why does Regan believe the boys won't be able to help them escape? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan wake up in the middle of the night? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan assume the noise that woke her is the janitor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan hears a phrase that makes her think it's all a nightmare. What is the phrase? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens to Regan's window? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan run out of her house? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What strange thing does Regan see in her yard? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the giant do with the flagpole? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3,)
- ~ Why is Regan thankful she isn't Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the giant throw at Regan as she runs from him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan fall to the ground? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Hop on



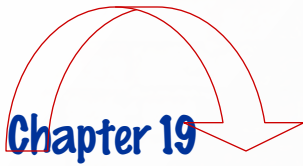
- ~ Where do you think the boys came from? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why do you think the boys' appearance and what they're wearing is described in such detail? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think the boys can't be shy? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think the boys are so upset by the bruises on Regan's wrist? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ If you were in Regan's position, would you want to look out the window? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Turn to page 103. Listen while someone reads aloud, starting with the 7th paragraph: "She peeked..." until the end of the 8th paragraph on page 104: "It could have.." How does the author use the length of the sentences to speed up and slow down the action? (RL.6.7)
- ~ How would you feel about the giant if you were there? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ When the giant says "Fe fi fo fum," would that make you more nervous, or less? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4)
- ~ What do you think Regan ran into? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ List three things about the boys that make it hard for you to take them seriously. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ On page 103, after Regan hears the giant, she sees this response from the boys: "The blonde was wringing his hands. The taller one chewed on his bottom lip." How does this description make you feel about the boys? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Regan gets outside, she doesn't know which way to go. Describe a time when you couldn't make up your mind what to do next. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Find and write down the similes and metaphors in this chapter then replace them with your own. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ List three things from the story that Regan may have run into at the end of this chapter then describe what you think might happen next for each of these three things. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)





Chapter 19

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



searing

A shocking, **searing** heat exploded from her fingers and raced up her arm. (p. 106)

speckles

White **speckles** of light swam in front of her eyes. (p. 106)

rustling

Noises gathered behind her and grew louder, coming closer. **Rustling** leaves, pounding feet, heavy breathing. (p. 107)

integrity

"I wasn't referring to your ankle. I was referring to your **integrity**." (p. 108)

underestimated

He'd **underestimated** her. Again. She wasn't weak and she wouldn't fail. (p. 108)

wither

She wondered if her lungs would just **wither** up and die. (p. 108)

lugging

Did he think waiting for her would slow him down too much? More than **lugging** Noelle around on his shoulder?? (p. 108)

ushering

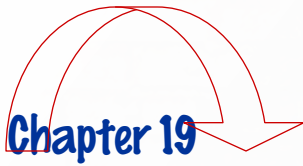
The boys in tights, one on each side, were lifting her by her elbows, **ushering** her toward Connor. (p. 109)

urge

Regan felt the **urge** to laugh until she realized she was in a weird position too, being half-carried by boys who dressed in shiny outfits and never said a word. (p. 109)

threshold

Connor turned up a sidewalk, mounted the steps of a blue, one-story house then fiddled with the doorknob before carrying Noelle across the **threshold**. (p. 109)



Jump in

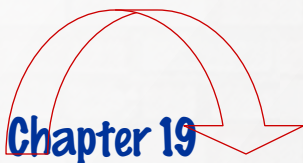
- ~ Who did Regan run into? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan see on the ground? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan want the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens when Regan reaches for the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens to the bush? How did it happen? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does the janitor say to Regan that makes her run away? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan thinks the janitor sent the giant. What does she think the janitor wants the giant to do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who does Regan see in the park? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is Noelle doing when Regan sees her in the park? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Regan do when she sees the giant and Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who grabs Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What does the janitor say to Regan after Connor rescues Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who helps Regan run to safety? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Where does everyone go to get away from the giant? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Hop on

- ~ Do you think the janitor sent the giant? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan thinks it's her fault the janitor sent the giant. What happened in Chapter 17, scene 2 to make her think this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why doesn't Noelle run away from the giant? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Do you think Regan could have helped Noelle? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss the meaning of integrity. Do you think Regan's integrity is weak? Support your answer with things that Regan has done, said or thought. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)

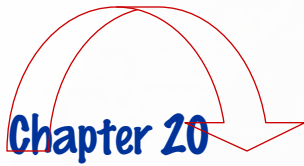
- ~ Compare how Connor responds to danger in this chapter with how Regan responded to the danger in Chapter 14. Compare their responses with how Derek responds to danger on page 28 and again on page 59. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The janitor says Regan's integrity is weak. Integrity means being honest, decent and respectful of others. Name events in the story that show he may be right. Look in Chapter 2, Chapter 3, scene 1, Chapter 5, scene 1 and Chapter 14, scene 2. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ After the janitor speaks to Regan on page 108, Regan thinks: "Well, one thing was certain. He'd underestimated her. Again. She wasn't weak and she wouldn't fail. She had strength and determination and she didn't lose. Ever. She'd not only lead everyone out of here but she'd do it right under his nose." How does this make you feel about Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Connor feels Noelle is worth risking his life for but Regan isn't worth slowing down for? Discuss your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 108, Regan's able to overcome the pain when "anger exploded through her veins like jet fuel." Discuss why you think being upset made her run faster. (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 109, Connor carrying Noelle into the house is compared to "a firefighter carrying a burn victim. Or a new husband with his bride." How do these comparisons hint at Regan's feelings? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Listen while someone reads page 109. Discuss how the rhythm of the longer sentences and paragraphs help build up the effect of the last sentence on this page. (RL.6.7)
- ~ Why do you think Connor looks so angry? Would you be angry at Regan if you were there? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Leap across



- ~ If you were at the park and saw Noelle, would you react like Regan or respond like Connor? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Connor to someone you know. How are they alike? How are they different? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Find descriptions in this chapter that make it hard to take Noelle seriously. Find descriptions that make it hard to take the boys seriously. Why do you suppose the story keeps downplaying their importance? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Throughout this chapter, Regan's frustration with Connor downplays his bravery. Discuss what Noelle is probably thinking and feeling during this chapter and how the story would be told differently if Noelle was the main character instead of Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)



Chapter 20

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

*accusing

Why was everyone **accusing** her of being a horrible person? (p. 110)



spine

Goosebumps traveled up her **spine** as she pictured what her beautiful house must look like now. (p. 111)

appealing

Connor snorted. It wasn't very **appealing**. (p. 112)

determined

"...Every one of them is **determined** to keep us here..." (p. 112)

unfortunately

"... **Unfortunately**, I never got a chance to find out what." (p. 112)

practically

"...He **practically** set me on fire..." (p. 113)

anxious

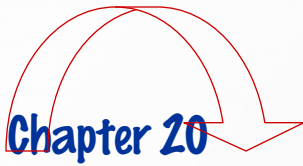
Regan would have hurled right there on Noelle's shoes if she hadn't been so **anxious** to hear what Connor would say. (p. 113)



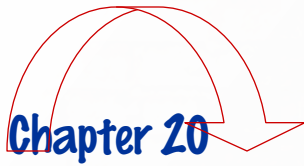
Jump in

- ~ Why is Connor mad at Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What are Regan's reasons for not helping Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan almost say about not saving Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan dislike Noelle so much? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Where does Connor think the boys came from? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ According to Connor, why can't they leave Profit Town? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Connor blame Regan for all the trouble they're in? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Connor think the broom is a weapon? Why does Regan think it isn't? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ What makes Regan think the janitor's book is important? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Connor want to take the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ How does Noelle change Connor's mind about taking the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5)



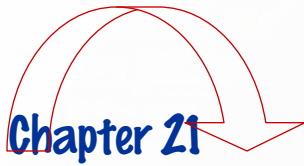
- ~ Take turns reading the second paragraph on page 110 out loud. Vote on who you think is the best match for the way Regan probably sounded. Discuss why you think so. (RL.6.7)
- ~ Do you think Regan didn't want to help Noelle? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare what Connor thinks they should do and what Regan thinks they should do. Who do you agree with? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan thinks that explaining the spell to Noelle is a "waste of time." Do you think this is true? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 112, after Connor explains why he's upset with Regan, Regan thinks, "Was he seriously blaming her? For everything? Because she threw a broom?" How does this make you feel about Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think everything is Regan's fault? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the broom was magical? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why can't Regan believe the broom is magical? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan prove her point about the broom? Did it convince you she's right and Connor's wrong? Explain. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ What makes Regan believe the janitor's book will help them escape? Do you agree with her? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan says the janitor doesn't want them to have the book. Look for events in the story that show she may be right. Refer to Chapter 5, scene 2, Chapter 13, scene 2 and Chapter 19. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why can Noelle change Connor's mind when Regan couldn't? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Point out things Regan says, does and thinks in this chapter that show how she's currently feeling about Connor. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan has a hard time believing in magic. Do you? Why or why not? (RL.6.6)
- ~ Point out places in this chapter where Regan's opinion of Noelle affects how the story is being told. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ We'll never know if Regan wanted to help Noelle because Regan could be lying, even to herself. Discuss a time when you weren't being honest with yourself. (RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Rewrite the scenes between Connor and Noelle from Connor's point of view. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Rewrite the scenes between Connor and Noelle from Noelle's point of view. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss what might be in the janitor's book and how it could help them escape. (RL.6.1)





Chapter 21

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

former

*"Count me out," said a **former** Reganite. (p. 114)*

*dramatic

*"Stop being so **dramatic**. We're not prisoners. I'm freer than I've ever been in my whole life." (p. 114)*

distract

*"...A couple of us can **distract** him while someone grabs the book..." (p. 115)*

peek

*"One **peek**," she insisted. "One peek won't hurt." (p. 116)*

*lunge

*If she made a quick **lunge**, she could have it in a second. (p. 116)*

resist

*But she couldn't **resist** one look back, one seemingly innocent glance over her shoulder. (p. 116)*

*whisked

*Derek **whisked** the club down on top of the janitor's head. (p. 117)*

*elders

*"Boys should never raise weapons against their **elders**," the janitor said. (p. 118)*

pendulum

*Using his whole arm, he swayed Derek from one side of the path to the other. Derek kicked and grabbed at the air around him, a suspended, swinging **pendulum**. (p. 118)*

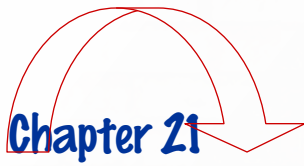
hypnotizing

*Fighting the **hypnotizing** effect of Derek's swinging body, Regan shook her head and turned toward the janitor's unguarded book. (p. 118)*

*straddled

*Connor **straddled** the janitor then pinned his shoulders against the path. (p. 118)*



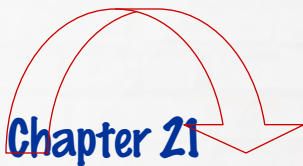


- ~ What is Connor trying to do at the beginning of the chapter? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why don't the others want to steal the janitor's book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ How does Derek change everyone's mind about taking the janitor's book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ How is Connor's plan like a football play? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who does Derek think should get the book last? Who does he think should be the first to grab it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan think the plan is going to fail? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan keep reaching for the bag Connor is carrying? What are they trying to do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who tries to attack the janitor with a policeman's club? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What does the janitor do when Derek tries to attack him? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who knocks the janitor to the ground? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ How does the janitor fight off Connor and Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ According to the plan, Regan isn't supposed to grab the book. Why does she do it anyway? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the janitor do when he sees Regan with his book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan know if Becca caught the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)



- ~ Assign speaking parts for the following characters: Connor, narrator, Leah, a Reganite, Regan, Derek, Karla, a nameless boy, a nameless girl and another nameless girl. Listen while they read and perform the first scene out loud. How does hearing their conversation make you feel about each character? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Explain how the events in Chapter 7, scene 2 set up Leah's reaction to upsetting the janitor in this scene. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan try to convince the others they need the book? Why is she letting Connor do it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)

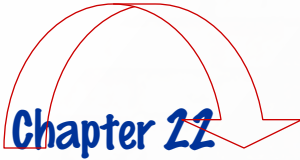
- ~ Regan knows the others aren't listening to her opinions anymore but she can't keep quiet about the janitor kidnapping them. What does this show about her personality? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ The Reganite tells Regan to stop being so dramatic. What does the Reganite mean by that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ The Reganite says she's freer than she's ever been in her whole life. If you were there, would you feel free? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why do you think Derek looks at Karla when he says they should take the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why do you think Derek wants the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Do you think Derek will end up being the new leader? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan think if Noelle grabs the book first, the plan will fail? Why do you think she goes along with the plan anyway? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think the janitor keeps looking younger? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Do you think Derek knows what he's up against when he tries to attack the janitor? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Discuss what you know about Derek that makes it easy to believe he'd attack the janitor. Look in Chapter 1, scene 3, Chapter 4, Chapter 6, scene 2 and Chapter 9, scene 4 to find clues to Derek's personality. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ On page 117, Derek is compared to "a kite caught in the wind." What do you think this would look like? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4)
- ~ How come Regan doesn't know who's supposed to get the book next? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)



Leap across



- ~ Outline the details to Connor's plan. What do you think could go wrong with this plan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Write down everything the boys in tights are doing in this chapter. What do all these actions have in common? How do they affect the mood of this chapter? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5)
- ~ In the scene between Derek and the janitor, write down the verbs that describe what Derek is doing. Write down the verbs that show what the janitor is doing. How do these verbs show who's in control? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ Point out the things Regan does, says and thinks that show she hasn't lost her confidence. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)



Chapter 22

Ribbit



(RL.6.4)

***queasy**

*Even when her stomach grew so **queasy** she wished she could vomit away the pain, she kept running. (p. 120)*

***daggers**

*Through branches that scraped her raw shoulders, across rocks that felt like **daggers**, over and around smoldering piles that stole what was left of her breath, she raced through the trees until she couldn't hear the janitor's wild screams, until there were no more fires, no more flaming balls, no more smoke. (p. 120)*

***smoldering**

*Through branches that scraped her raw shoulders, across rocks that felt like daggers, over and around **smoldering** piles that stole what was left of her breath, she raced through the trees until she couldn't hear the janitor's wild screams, until there were no more fires, no more flaming balls, no more smoke. (p. 120)*

***percolating**

*Pain scooted in and out of all the anger inside her, a **percolating**, boiling volcano. (p. 122)*

***squirming**

*"...We had him **squirming** on the ground." (p. 122)*

emerged

*Connor's voice drifted out from within the trees. Seconds later, he **emerged** with Noelle, slung, once again, over his shoulder. (p. 123)*

intended

*But she never **intended** to boss them around. She wasn't like that. (p. 124)*

startled

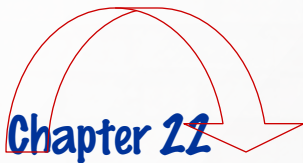
*A cheer rose up from the group and she turned, **startled**. (p. 125)*



Jump in

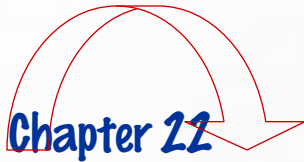
- ~ Why does Regan raise her arms? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What makes Regan think something's following her? What does she think it is? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who's following Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan get to the meeting place? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

- ~ Why is Regan upset when Connor isn't at the meeting place? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who was supposed to pass the book to Connor? Why does this upset Regan even more? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Derek defend himself? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why is Derek mad at Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan walk away from the others? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is everyone cheering for Karla? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why does Regan head back to the group? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



- ~ On page 120, Regan's "whole body pulsed with the pain messages coursing from her hands, demanding attention, demanding relief" and the pain is compared to "arrows piercing her legs every time she stepped down." What do you think that would feel like? Have you ever felt that way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Regan has such a low opinion of the boys even though they keep helping her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan should have been more concerned about Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think the others didn't notice that no one had the book until Regan got there? What do you think this shows about Regan? What does this show about the others? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan was partly to blame for the plan going wrong? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Does Connor have a right to blame Regan for what happened? Why do you think he does? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare how the others treat Regan in this chapter with how they treated her in Chapter 4 (pgs. 26-30). (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Regan defend herself after Connor blames her for the plan going wrong? Is it a good reason? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the janitor's reaction proves Regan was right about the book? If so, why do you think the others are turning on her anyway? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

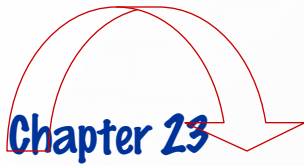
- ~ Listen while someone reads the scene that starts on page 124: “They always asked....” How does hearing this scene read out loud help you hear how much time Regan spends on each thought? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Why has Regan become so used to telling others what to do? Do you blame her for becoming bossy? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Describe what Regan pictures as she runs through the woods. How does this help take her mind off the pain? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare Regan’s actions and reactions when she gets to the meeting place with how everyone else is acting. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the others are being unfair to Regan? If you were there, would you be upset with her? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think the others still need Regan to lead them? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss what makes Regan a good leader. Discuss how she could be a better leader. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe how you’d feel if you were Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)





Chapter 23

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

*hunched

*When it **hunched** down, she knew it was preparing to end her life. (p. 127)*



*anchored

*It could too, because Derek's hands, still wrapped around hers, were keeping her **anchored**. (p. 127)*

*scuffling

*"NO!" Behind them, Karla's shout tore through the air. There was some **scuffling**. Karla wailed. (p. 128)*

*wailed

*"NO!" Behind them, Karla's shout tore through the air. There was some scuffling. Karla **wailed**. (p. 128)*

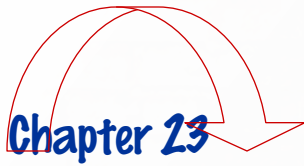
shuddered

*The wolf **shuddered** one last time then turned toward her. (p. 128)*



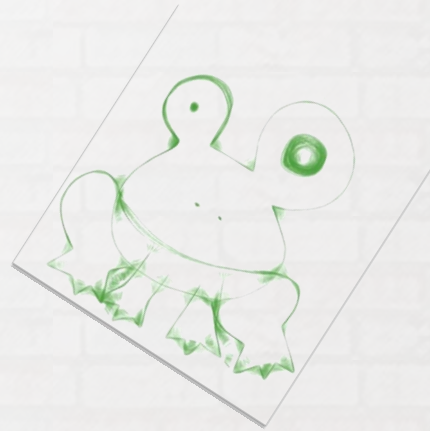
Jump in

- ~ Why is Regan happy to see Karla? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Karla say the book isn't going to do them any good? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What is the book about? (RL.6.1)
- ~ The book is written in a foreign language. How does Karla know what it says? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Karla do with the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Regan see behind Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan push against Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens when Regan pushes against Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why can't Derek get off the ground? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What happens to Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Karla blame Regan for what happened to Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



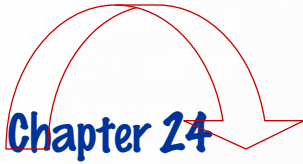
Hop on

- ~ Why does Regan plan on asking for everyone's suggestions and advice? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do the events in Chapter 4 foreshadow what happens to Derek in this chapter? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Karla blames Regan for what happened to Derek. Do you? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan run away? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The chapter ends with, "Somewhere on the way back to town, her heart fell out, as dead and lifeless as Derek Ferguson." What do you think this means? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Imagine you're Derek. Write down or discuss your thoughts and feelings as the events in this chapter take place. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Pretend you're Regan. Discuss your feelings about what happened. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan ran away. Describe what you would do if you were her. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)



Chapter 24

(RL.6.4)

*grubby

*Connor's photograph stared up at her from the somewhat **grubby** page. (p. 132)*

inserted

*It hadn't been taped on or **inserted**; it was simply part of the page. (p. 132)*

leafed

*She turned the book toward her and **leafed** through the pages until she came to her own picture, right next to Chicken Little. (p. 133)*

personalities

*Had the janitor chosen stories based on their **personalities**? (p. 133)*

*doomed

*She'd **doomed** them all. (p. 134)*



Jump in

- ~ Why doesn't Regan mind the pain in her foot? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan want to see Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Becca think the book is important? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan think Connor could be right about the town being based on fairy tales? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What's inside the book that surprises Regan and Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What is the name of the fairy tale next to Regan's photo? Why does this fairy tale make Regan feel even sadder? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Besides the photos of themselves and their friends, who else do they find inside the book? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think the frog may have turned into one of the boys? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What fairy tale is next to Becca's picture? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why does Regan think the janitor chose particular stories for each of them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

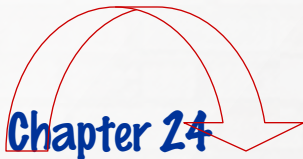
Ribbit



- ~ Why does Karla's picture next to *The Little Mermaid* make Regan think she's wrong about how the janitor chose the stories for each of them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Becca says Karla is like the little mermaid. In what way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Becca say about the broom? Why does this make Regan feel even worse? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ If the broom destroys the fairy tale characters, then why couldn't Connor destroy the witch in the forest? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan believes they can only destroy the monsters from their own stories. What makes her believe this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Becca's escape plan make Regan feel even worse? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

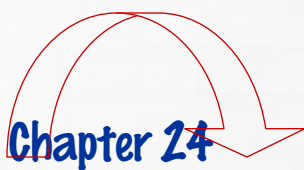


Hop on



- ~ Turn to page 129. Have someone read from the third paragraph: "Instead of making..." to the end of the fifth paragraph: "Tears streamed..." How does hearing these paragraphs help you feel what Regan's feeling? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Do you think Regan should blame herself for what happened to Derek? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why didn't Regan notice Karla liked Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Becca's concern for Regan say about their friendship? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Becca says Regan's too hard on herself because of her mom. Do you think Becca's right? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ In this chapter, Becca explains why she's so loyal to Regan. Do you think this explanation makes Regan feel better? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

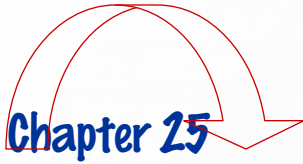
- ~ On page 133, after Regan saw her picture in the janitor's book, "her heart became a mini-gymnast in her chest." What do you think this metaphor means? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Turn to page 134. Listen while someone reads the 10th paragraph: "Regan shook..." How does hearing this paragraph out loud help you feel what Regan's feeling? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Were you surprised by what the girls found in the book? In what way? (RL.6.1)
- ~ There were hints in the story that may have reminded you of fairy tales. See if you can find them. Look in Chapter 7, scene 2, Chapter 9, scene 2, Chapter 14, scene 2 and Chapter 18, scene 2. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan thinks the janitor picked Chicken Little for Becca's story because Becca worries so much. Point out places in the story that show Becca worrying. Look in Chapters 1 and 4. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Find places in the book that show how Karla felt about Derek. Look in Chapters 4 and 11. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Follow the significance of the broom throughout the story and discuss the different characters' reactions to it. Look in Chapter 5, scene 2, Chapter 6, scene 2, Chapter 12, scene 2, Chapter 14, scene 2, Chapter 15 and Chapter 16, scene 1 (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across

- ~ If you were Becca, would you still be loyal to Regan? Discuss why or why not. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Read *The Frog Prince* then compare the girl in the fairy tale to Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6, RL.6.9)
- ~ Read *Chicken Little* then compare Becca to Chicken Little. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.9)
- ~ Describe or discuss times in the story that showed how Karla felt about Derek. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5)
- ~ Read *Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *Hansel and Gretel*. Explain why the janitor picked these stories for Connor. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.9)





Chapter 25

Ribbit



(RL.6.4)

furiously

*Becca continued working her way through the book, writing **furiously** on the torn-out page. (p. 138)*

otherwise

*"...We did need the book, **otherwise** we wouldn't have figured out why the broom didn't work on Karla's witch...." (p. 138)*

violent

*She'd been imagining something bloodier and more **violent**. (p. 138)*

temples

*The dull ache behind Regan's eyes turned into a heavy pounding against her **temples**. (p. 139)*

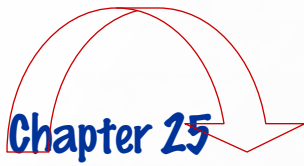
version

*In this **version**, the wolf not only ate Grandma, but Little Red Riding Hood too. (p. 139)*



Jump in

- ~ Why does Becca want to make a list of the monsters? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Who has to destroy the giant? (RL.6.1)
- ~ What was Derek's monster? Why does this make Regan feel even worse? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Becca's description of what happened to the fox gives Regan hope. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happened earlier in the story that makes Regan think they don't need the broom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ At first, Regan is sure all they have to do is touch their monsters to make them break apart. But the wolf eating Derek makes her doubt this. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does the book's version of *Little Red Riding Hood* make Regan believe Derek might be okay? What does she plan to do now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



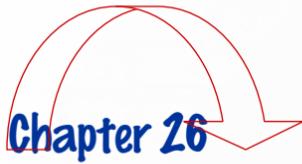
Hop on



- ~ Why can't Regan face Becca? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan should tell Becca about what happened to the broom? Would you be able to tell Becca what happened if you were Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ The giant belongs to Noelle. Why is this the worst possible match? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ When Becca asks if Noelle could throw the broom at the giant, Regan feels even worse than before. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Noelle would be able to destroy the giant if she had the broom? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Assign readers for the following parts: narrator, Becca and Regan. Listen as they read from page 138, 5th paragraph: "Is that how..." to the end of the page. Discuss how hearing their conversation helps you imagine how each girl is feeling now. (RL.6.7)
- ~ Regan thinks the monsters will break apart if the right people touch them. Do you agree? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ If Regan's right about touching the monsters, then why do you think the wolf didn't break apart before it ate Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do Chapters 23 and 24 work together to help this chapter set up a new goal? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Which version of *Little Red Riding Hood* are you most familiar with? (RL.6.3, RL.6.9)
- ~ Why do you suppose there are different versions of *Little Red Riding Hood*? (RL.6.9)

Leap across

- ~ Discuss a time when you were unable to admit to something you did. (RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Write or discuss what you think would have happened between Derek and the wolf if Derek had the broom. (RL.6.1)
- ~ On page 138, "everything within Regan became liquid." Describe what this means to you. (RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe what you think is going to happen with the wolf and Derek. Will they be able to save Derek? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Write or discuss a possible ending for this story. (RL.6.1)

Chapter 26

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

*jagged

*Working as quickly as she could, Regan unhooked the flag then ran her finger over the sharp, **jagged** edge. (p. 141)*

*flitted

*Regan **flitted** a look across the park. (p. 142)*

*clammy

*They were cold and **clammy**. (p. 142)*

*snickered

*Several of the boys **snickered**. (p. 143)*

slumped

*Noelle **slumped** against Regan. (p. 143)*

adjusting

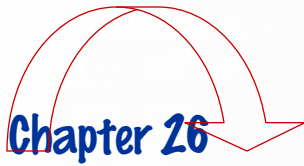
*"Wait!" Regan called, **adjusting** her balance against Noelle's added weight. (p. 143)*

cringed

*Seeing the scowls on their faces, Regan **cringed**. (p. 143)*

Jump in

- ~ What is Regan looking for? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think talking to Noelle is a waste of time? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Noelle want to do? How does Regan respond? What changes Regan's mind? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan plan to do with the flagpole? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why can't Regan face Derek's friends? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Noelle want Regan to stand next to her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why won't Derek's friends agree to help? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



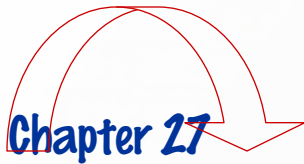
Hop on



- ~ Regan doesn't think Noelle is capable of helping them. Discuss things that have happened in the story that have led Regan to think this. Look in Chapter 19, scene 2 and Chapter 21, scene 2. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What is the significance of Noelle finally looking Regan in the eye? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ Why do you think Regan agrees to let Noelle join them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do you feel when Regan grabs the flagpole? What made you feel that way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 142, Regan thinks, "Everyone liked - *likes* Derek." Why is it written this way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan's surprised that Noelle considers her a friend. Are you? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ There are events in the story that might make Noelle think of Regan as a friend. See if you can find them. Look in Chapter 2, scene 2, Chapter 9, scene 1, Chapter 11, scene 1 and Chapter 16, scene 3. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan encourages Noelle on page 142, when she says, "Go ahead, Noelle, tell them what they need to do." She also squeezes Noelle's hand and tells her they'll be home soon. Would Regan have been this encouraging before? Why do you think her attitude toward Noelle has changed? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What other times in the story have caused Regan to change her mind about Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

Leap across

- ~ Compare the way Regan treats Noelle with the way Becca treats Noelle. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe a time when you were nervous about doing something but did it anyway. (RL.6.2)
- ~ Describe a time when a friend made you braver or made you feel stronger. (RL.6.2)
- ~ List how Regan and Noelle are different. List things they have in common. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

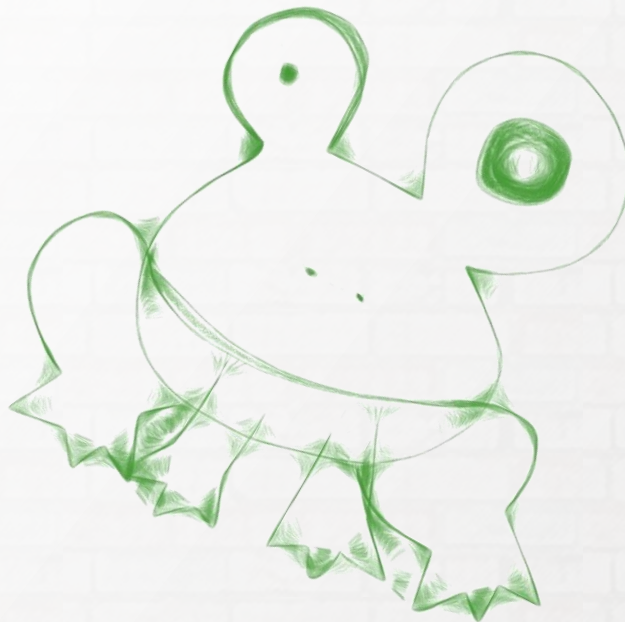


Chapter 27

(RL.6.4)

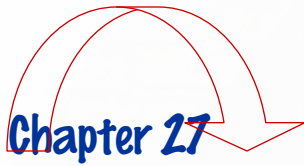
Ribbit

There is no new vocabulary for this chapter. Relax and take this time to congratulate yourself on all your hard work so far!



Jump in

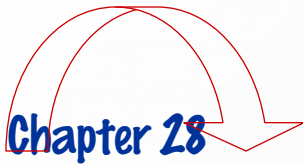
- ~ Why doesn't Regan try to keep Derek's friends from leaving? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Connor agrees to help but both girls know it won't be enough. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Karla greet Regan? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Karla agree to help them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)



- ~ How do Derek's friends cause Regan to understand what it's like to be Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan realizes she's been treating Noelle like Regan's mom treats Regan. If this is true, then why do you think Noelle considers Regan a friend? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Connor cares more for Noelle than he does Regan. Why do you think he feels this way? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What makes Regan realize that Karla is the most likely person to help them save Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Turn to the last scene, starting on page 145. Assign readers for the following parts: narrator, Becca, Karla, Regan and Connor. How does hearing them speak to each other make you feel about each character? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Regan tells Karla, "This isn't about me. It's about Derek." What does she mean by that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Karla asks Connor what he thinks of Regan's plan to save Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think they'll be able to save Derek? Why or why not? (RL.6.1)



- ~ Write about a time when you saw someone being treated unfairly by others. (RL.6.2)
- ~ Regan and the others never gave Noelle a chance because she's quiet and keeps to herself. Why do you think Noelle is so quiet? Do you think Noelle should speak up for herself or do you think the others should try harder to understand her? (RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Write about someone in your life who reminds you of Noelle. How are they alike? How are they different? (RL.6.2)
- ~ Compare yourself to Noelle. Discuss how you're the same and how you're different. Next, compare yourself to Regan or Connor. Which of these characters remind you most of yourself? Why? (RL.6.2, RL.6.3)



Chapter 28

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



barely

*The princes raced by Karla, their feet **barely** touching the ground once they passed the witch. (p. 148)*

circulation

*The tips of her fingers started to pulse. Her arms tingled as if she'd slept on them too long. Losing **circulation**. (p. 148)*

snatched

*While the witch watched with glowing eyes, Karla reached out and **snatched** the flagpole. (p. 149)*

*swirling

*She jammed its jagged end into the **swirling** tatters of the witch's clothes. (p. 149)*

encircled

*Each one had **encircled** her wrists with their hands. (p. 150)*

*torrent

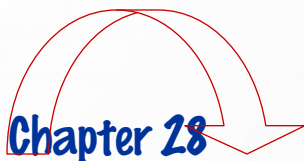
*A **torrent** of water gushed from her face, heading directly for Regan. (p. 150)*



Jump in

- ~ Why are they walking through the forest? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)
- ~ What drops from the trees? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What causes the witch to turn from Karla and go after Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the witch do to Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Karla the only one who can help free Regan from the witch? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why is Regan afraid she'll pass out? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Connor think Karla needs the broom to destroy the witch? How does Regan know Karla doesn't need it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Karla get past the witch's wind? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Karla grab the flagpole? (RL.6.1)

- ~ Hitting the witch with the flagpole isn't working. What does Regan think Karla has to do instead? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does the witch say to make Regan doubt herself? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



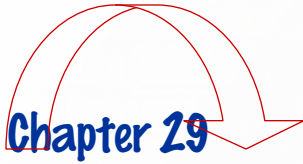
Hop on



- ~ How do Chapter 14, scene 2, Chapter 24, scene 2 and Chapter 25 prepare you for what happens in this chapter? Discuss how the characters would have acted differently in this chapter if these events hadn't happened first. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ What do you think would have happened if Regan hadn't warned Karla about the witch? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Regan would have warned Karla about the witch if this had happened earlier in the story? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 149, Regan wonders, "Had she thanked God often enough for Becca? Had she ever?" Do you think Regan ever appreciated Becca before and if so, when? Do you think Regan appreciates her more now and if so, why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ When Karla passes the witch without grabbing her, what is Regan afraid happened? Why would she think that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Karla can't destroy the witch? (RL.6.1)
- ~ If Karla can't save Regan, do you think someone else will? Who and how? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2)

Leap across

- ~ Regan warns Karla about the witch. Earlier in the story, she didn't warn Noelle about the giant. Point out events in the story that may have caused this change in Regan's concern for others. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Pick one of the following characters – Connor, Noelle, Becca, Karla, Derek - and explain how that character has shown Regan how to be a more caring person. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe what it might feel like to be inside the force of the witch's wind. Compare this feeling to something you've experienced. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan has to count on the others to save her now. Discuss why it's hard for Regan to give up control of what's happening to her. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Chapter 29

(RL.6.4)

surged

*The wave **surged** beneath her, a liquid rolling ground. (p. 151)*

*drool

*Its mouth was slightly open, **drool** dripping from its razor teeth. (p. 152)*

*fangs

*Its **fangs** dripped and its muscles twitched, preparing to strike. (p. 152)*

*strangled

*With a **strangled** cry, Karla drove the weapon forward. (p. 152)*

tufts

***Tufts** of fur rained down on Karla's head, coating her out-stretched arm. (p. 152)*

*skirmishing

*What remained of the wolf crashed to the ground, **skirmishing** just enough to kick up dust and a whirl of fallen leaves. (p. 152)*

stomped

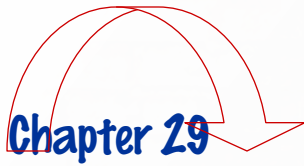
*She pushed the witch out of the way and **stomped** toward Regan, her fists clenched, her face a mask of pure hatred. (p. 153)*

Ribbit



Jump in

- ~ What does the witch do to Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan close her eyes? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Karla scream? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Karla want to do and why doesn't Becca want her to do it? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Regan tell Karla to do? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How does Karla attack the wolf? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What happens to the wolf? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why is Karla so upset with Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who does Karla push out of the way to get to Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)



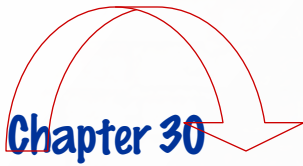
Hop on



- ~ Listen while someone reads the first three paragraphs on page 151. How does the rhythm of the sentences correspond to what's happening to Regan? (RL.6.7)
- ~ Compare what the witch does to Regan with what the janitor did to Derek. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ If you were Regan, would you tell Karla to go after the wolf? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Unlike other times in the story, Regan shows more concern for someone else than she does for herself. Discuss what she may have learned from the other characters throughout the story. Look in Chapter 4, Chapter 9, scene 4, Chapter 14, Chapter 19, scene 1, Chapter 21, scenes 2 and 3 and Chapter 28. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Compare how Karla responds to the wolf with how Regan responded to it on pages 127-128. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Were you surprised by Karla's bravery? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Regan was hoping that if they cut the wolf open, Derek would pop out, just like Little Red Riding Hood in the fairy tale. Were you surprised when he didn't? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ What do you think Karla's going to do to Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)

Leap across

- ~ Imagine what it would feel like to be on top of the witch's wave and compare it to something you've done before. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ On page 152, "the pole glittered in the sun as Karla swept it over her head." Describe how this makes you feel about the pole and about Karla. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4,)
- ~ Compare how these characters respond to danger on the following pages: Derek on page 59; Noelle on page 107; Connor on page 107; Regan on page 107; Karla on page 152. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe how you'd feel toward Regan if you were Karla at the end of this chapter. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)



Chapter 30

Ribbit

(RL.6.4)

imitating

*It had to be the witch, **imitating** Derek's voice. (p. 154)*



*sneaky

*It had to be the witch, imitating Derek's voice. Her **sneaky** way of getting Regan to open her eyes and face Karla's anger. (p. 154)*

scout

*"Wait a minute," Regan said, forcing herself to **scout** out the rest of the valley, "where's the witch?" (p. 155)*

evaporated

*"She's gone! She **evaporated**, just like the fox did, right after Karla pushed her out of the way to get to you..." (p. 155)*

grimy

*Derek moved a strand of purple hair away from Karla's **grimy** cheek. (p. 155)*

*awed

*Regan nodded, too **awed** by Karla's bravery to speak. (p. 155)*

*paranoid

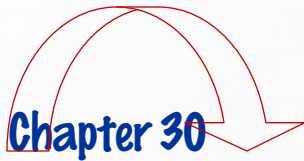
*Maybe, like Chicken Little, she'd realized there wasn't much point in being **paranoid** all the time. (p. 156)*



Jump in

- ~ Why doesn't Regan fall to the ground? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Whose voice does Regan hear? Who does Regan think it really is? What makes her open her eyes to see? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happened to the witch? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Karla do that reminds Regan of the little mermaid? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens when Derek touches the wolf? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does Derek say right before the wolf explodes? How does this remind Regan of Little Red Riding Hood? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)

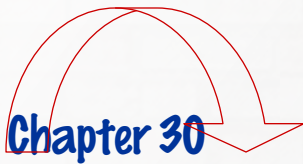
- ~ What did Regan do right before the frog exploded? How is this similar to what happens in *The Frog Prince*? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6, RL.6.9)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan want the princes to touch her now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What's coming toward them? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How does Noelle respond when she hears the giant? Why does her response matter? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)



Hop on

- ~ Waiting for Karla or the witch, Regan thinks, "What did it matter? She had this coming all along." What does she mean by that? Do you agree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ On page 155, Regan is "too awed by Karla's bravery to speak." Why is Regan so impressed with Karla's bravery? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan think they have to do to make the monsters dissolve? Do you think she's right? Support your answer with what happened right before Becca's, Karla's and Derek's monsters dissolved. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ If Regan's right, how does she explain why the princes are still here, even though they've touched her? Do you agree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ If Regan's right about the lessons, then Noelle must learn the lesson in *Jack and the Beanstalk* before she can destroy the giant. What do you think the lesson is in *Jack and the Beanstalk* that Noelle needs to understand? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.9)





Leap across

- ~ Describe a time when you felt as relieved as Regan must feel when she sees Derek. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe how you felt about Karla at the beginning of this story. Describe how you feel about her now. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ List Regan's explanations for why the wolf didn't dissolve the first time it made contact with Derek. List the reasons why she doesn't believe any of these explanations. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan thinks the princes are still here because she has another lesson to learn. Discuss what you think the lesson might be. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ The princes have frustrated Regan all along but now she fears for their safety. Discuss or write about something that you didn't realize you'd miss until it was gone. (RL.6.6)



Chapter 31

(RL.6.4)

Ribbit



trailing

*She raced after Becca with a prince on each side and Connor **trailing** behind. (p. 158)*

hesitate

*After what happened with Derek, Regan knew the giant wouldn't even **hesitate**. (p. 159)*

certain

*She took a deep breath, not quite **certain** but **certain** enough. (p. 159)*

*pried

*Regan ran her fingers over the bracelet then **pried** Becca's hand loose. (p. 159)*

*speck

*In the distance, a **speck** of brown bobbed above the highest branches. (p. 160)*

moral

*"You need to think about the **moral** in Jack and the Beanstalk...." (p. 160)*

dazed

*Noelle glanced at Connor then back at Regan. She looked **dazed**. (p. 161)*

*stride

*He wasn't running but his **stride** was enormous. (p. 162)*

*grimaced

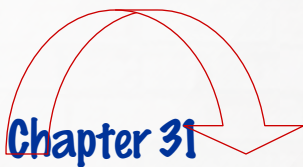
*He **grimaced** with the effort but didn't gain an inch. (p. 163)*



Jump in

- ~ Why does Regan think hiding in the tree isn't a good idea? Why does she do it anyway? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why is Noelle standing in the middle of the path? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What makes Connor leave the safety of the tree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why does Regan leave the tree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan is not completely sure she knows what Noelle needs to do, but she keeps going anyway. Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why doesn't Regan want Connor to carry Noelle back to the tree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ How do the princes keep Connor from saving Noelle? Why do you think they do this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

- ~ What does Regan ask Noelle to do? Why does Connor disagree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan tells Connor she's absolutely positive. Is she? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan think the wolf was able to eat Derek? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Noelle say she can't believe in the moral to *Jack and the Beanstalk*? What does Regan say to try to help her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan keep looking back at the tree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan have to make Noelle understand right now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan say to show Noelle she can do this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan decide to stay with Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Connor want Noelle to remember about *Jack and the Beanstalk*? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why do the princes touch Regan's wrist? What happens after they do? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How do you know the giant's there? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

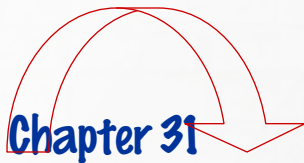


Hop on



- ~ Why is Regan frustrated with Noelle? Why is she frustrated with Connor? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss how events in the story lead Regan to believe they won't be able to escape if Noelle doesn't touch the giant. Look in Chapter 13, scene 2, Chapter 17, Chapter 24, scene 2 and Chapter 25. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Compare Becca's reaction to Connor's leaving to save Noelle with Regan's reaction. Would you respond more like Becca or more like Regan? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Seeing the bracelet on Becca's wrist helps Regan decide to risk her safety to help Noelle. Look for events involving the bracelet to figure out what the bracelet means to Regan. Look in Chapter 3, scene 1, Chapter 9, scene 3, Chapter 16, scene 3 and Chapter 24, scene 2. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Becca asks Regan if being in charge is important enough for Regan to risk her life. Do you think that's why Regan went after Noelle? Explain your answer. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)

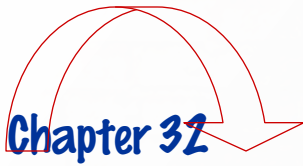
- ~ On page 160, Regan tells Connor, “She doesn’t need a hero right now. She needs answers.” What does Regan mean by this? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Regan tells Noelle that sometimes you have to fight for what you want; sometimes it’s the only think you can do. Do you agree? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ What events in the story show that Noelle is not used to fighting for what she wants? Look in Chapter 2, Chapter 19 and Chapter 21, scene 2. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ The first time the giant was after Noelle, Regan chose to hide. Now she chooses to stay and support Noelle. Discuss what’s happened in the story that has caused this change in Regan’s response. (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Why is Noelle more willing to face the giant after Regan says she’ll stay with her? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What causes the princes to finally dissolve ? Why didn’t they dissolve before? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Share what you think is the moral to *Jack and the Beanstalk*. (RL.6.2)
- ~ Write about a time when you had to fight for something you wanted. (RL.6.2)
- ~ List things Regan has done throughout the story that show she wouldn’t have helped Noelle earlier in the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ List events in the story that may have affected Regan’s decision to stay with Noelle. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Write about a time when your friends’ support made you stronger. (RL.6.2)
- ~ Describe what might have happened if Regan hadn’t decided to help Noelle. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.6)





Chapter 32

(RL.6.4)

*mesmerized

*Regan watched, **mesmerized** for what seemed like forever. (p. 164)*



*squelch

*Big and bulging, his hand could easily **squelch** them, cutting off their air until their ribs cracked. (p. 165)*

*pudgy

*The **pudgy** skin dissolved. (p. 165)*



Jump in

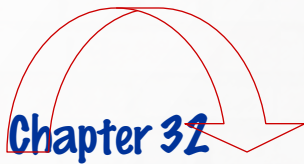
- ~ Why does Regan feel like crying? Why does she force herself to stop? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Noelle shout at the giant, “Sometimes it’s okay to steal?” (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4)
- ~ What did Regan realize about the giant when she looked at his face? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan say to Noelle after Noelle yanks her hand away? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ What happens when they touch the giant’s hand? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Hop on

- ~ Regan repeats what Noelle has already said – sometimes it’s okay to steal. Why do you think she does that? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why does Regan tell Noelle she has to believe it’s okay to steal? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ What does Regan imagine happening to them as she waits for the giant’s hand to come closer? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why do you think Noelle’s hands are so cold? (RL.6.1)
- ~ How does Regan convince Noelle to touch the giant’s hand? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)

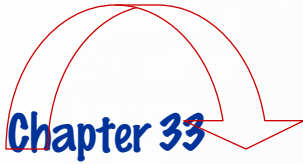
- ~ What events in the story lead up to Noelle's decision to trust Regan? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Noelle first met the giant on page 107. Compare her response to the giant in that scene with her response to the giant in this chapter. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ The giant first went after Noelle on page 107. Compare Regan's response then to Regan's response now. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Do you think Noelle would have found the courage to touch the giant if Regan wasn't there? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare how Connor saved Noelle from the giant on page 107 with how Regan helps Noelle in this chapter. Whose response is the most helpful? Why? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Did you think they'd be able to destroy the giant? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)



Leap across

- ~ Describe how you would feel and the thoughts going through your mind if you were Noelle or Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe the bravest thing you've ever had to do. (RL.6.1)





Chapter 33

Ribbit



(RL.6.4)

*dimwitted

*"That's not the lesson in Jack and the Beanstalk, you bekloppt, **dimwitted** girl!..."* (p. 167)

numerous

*"...I visited **numerous** schools..."* (p. 167)

desire

*"...In your **desire** to save yourself, you pushed Noelle into harm's way..."* (p. 167)

apt

*"...It was a very sad, but very **apt** display of your most tragic flaw..."* (p. 168)

display

*"...It was a very sad, but very apt **display** of your most tragic flaw..."* (p. 168)

*tragic

*"...It was a very sad, but very apt display of your most **tragic** flaw..."* (p. 168)

*flaw

*"...It was a very sad, but very apt display of your most tragic **flaw**..."* (p. 168)

inheritance

*"...He took what was rightfully his – the **inheritance** from his dead father which the giant had stolen in the first place..."* (p. 168)

simplified

*"...You can't learn anything from the **simplified** tales they tell these days..."* (p. 168)

*embrace

*"...The broom not only provided a clear understanding of the morals but also a guarantee that you'd fully **embrace** the lesson and become a better person..."* (p. 169)

outlook

*"...She managed to destroy her monster and adjust her **outlook** on life in a matter of moments..."* (p. 169)

*scathing

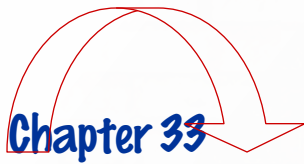
*He turned toward Regan with a **scathing** look. "If Regan was less quick to judge, she would have seen the broom for what it was instead of what it appeared to be..."* (p. 169)

*ease

*"...Let me put your mind at **ease**..."* (p. 169)

specifically

*Of course Connor would ask about her **specifically**.* (p. 170)



Jump in

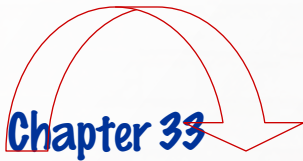
- ~ Why is Noelle surprised the giant dissolved? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why is the janitor so angry? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ The old man isn't really a janitor. Who is he? (RL.6.1)
- ~ Why did the sorcerer choose these kids to be the first to visit Profit Town? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ What does the sorcerer say the true moral is in *Jack and the Beanstalk*? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why was everyone wrong about the true moral in *Jack and the Beanstalk*? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ What is the sorcerer's reason for bringing them to Profit Town? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ The sorcerer says they're not learning anything from the fairy tales anymore. Why does Connor disagree? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why was Becca able to destroy the fox so easily? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Why would things have been easier if Regan hadn't thrown the broom? (RL.6.1, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)



Hop on

- ~ On page 167, the janitor "stomped toward them with high, angry steps. He marched right up to Noelle and poked his finger in her face." Does this description make you fear the janitor or laugh at him? Why? How do you think the kids in the story feel about him now? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.4, RL.6.6)
- ~ Why were they able to destroy the giant? How did Regan help? Would Noelle have been able to destroy the giant on her own? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss how the following characters were changed by the story: Karla, Derek, Becca, Connor, Noelle, Regan. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5, RL.6.6)
- ~ Who do you think learned the most from this story? Why do you think so? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Do you think the sorcerer is a bad guy? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ In what way do you think Regan will be a better mayor now than she would have been if the story hadn't taken place? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ How has the story helped Noelle gain courage and self-confidence? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)

- ~ How has the story helped Regan gain respect for Noelle? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)
- ~ Regan's assumed the Sorcerer was up to no good all the way through the story. In the end, he says he's only been trying to help them. Reread the following scenes and pay particular attention to the Sorcerer's actions and responses in each one: Chapter 3, scene 1, Chapter 7, scene 1, Chapter 11, scene 1, Chapter 13, scene 2, Chapter 16, scene 1 and Chapter 17, scene 2. Do you agree with Regan or do you think the Sorcerer was just trying to help them? (RL.6.1, RL.6.5)



Leap across



- ~ At the beginning of the story, the janitor claimed this whole thing was Regan's fault. Now that you know the full story, do you agree with him? Why or why not? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare how Regan reacted when the ladder was about to fall on her before the story started and how she reacted when the giant showed up at the end of the story. How does this show what Regan has learned from the story's events? (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe how Becca changed throughout the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3)
- ~ Discuss how the story changed Noelle. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5)
- ~ Describe how and why Regan's feelings about Connor changed throughout the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare what was most important to Regan at the beginning of the story to what is most important to her at the end of the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Compare the type of friendship Regan and Becca had at the beginning of the story to the kind of friendship they have at the end of the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Describe how Regan felt about Noelle at the beginning of the story. Describe how Regan feels about Noelle at the end of the story. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ Discuss how the story affected Derek. Discuss how it affected Karla. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.5)
- ~ Write a paragraph about each of the following characters: Karla, Derek, Noelle, Connor, Becca and Regan. Describe their strengths and weaknesses. Discuss whether or not you'd want to be friends with them and why or why not. (RL.6.1, RL.6.2, RL.6.3, RL.6.6)
- ~ List the different feelings you had while reading this story and discuss what made you feel this way. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)
- ~ Discuss what you will remember most about this story and why. (RL.6.1, RL.6.3)

English Language Arts Standards

Reading: Literature » Grade 6

Key Ideas and Details

RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.6.2: Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

RL.6.3: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

Craft and Structure

RL.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

RL.6.5: Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.

RL.6.6: Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

RL.6.7: Compare and contrast the experience of reading a story, drama, or poem to listening to or viewing an audio, video, or live version of the text, including contrasting what they "see" and "hear" when reading the text to what they perceive when they listen or watch.

RL.6.8: (Not applicable to literature)

RL.6.9: Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres (e.g., stories and poems; historical novels and fantasy stories) in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Range of Reading and Complexity of Text

RL.6.10: By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, in the grades 6–8 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.