

Bonnie Blue Button is a Bully by Michelle Olson

Teachers Guide

Written with Guidance from Certified Teachers

For vocabulary development with older children or more efficient readers use context clues and other strategies to elicit meaning. If the student needs more assistance simply explain the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

Before reading the book ask the *overarching question*, "What do you notice about the cover? What do you think this book is about?"

Title page: Read the title of the book and author. Reinforce that this page tells who wrote the book, illustrated (drew the pictures) or in this case, used a camera to take the picture.

The next page is called the *dedication page*. This is where the author thanks people for their encouragement while she was writing the book. This page also contains information about the company that published (or put the book together and printed it).

Read pages 3-5:

Vocabulary: What does "impress" mean? (to make someone feel admiration)

Starting on page 4, discuss how certain words in each paragraph rhyme and challenge the students to pullout the rhyming words.

Read pages 6-7

Vocabulary: What does "deceived" mean? (to make someone believe something that is not true).

What does "cruel" mean? (to knowingly cause pain or distress)

Look at each character's facial expression and discuss how they may be feeling.

Read pages 8-9

Vocabulary: What does "assumed" mean? (to believe something is true without proof)

Why did Bonnie believe that the two other buttons on the dress would be her friends forever?

Read pages 10-17

Vocabulary: What does “battered” mean? (damaged or beat-up)

What do you think the two other buttons are thinking as Bonnie is being torn off the dress?

Read pages 18-19

Vocabulary: What does “confess” mean? (to admit to something)

How do you think Bonnie will react to this situation?

Read Pages 20-21

Vocabulary: What does “pout” mean? (to show unhappy feelings with a facial expression)

What are feelings and what does it mean to have your feelings “bruised”?

Have you had your feelings hurt by someone you thought was a friend? Discuss how a true friend would have treated Bonnie after being damaged by the dog.

Read Pages 22-23

Vocabulary: What does “moping” mean? (to move slowly in a sad manner)

Why does Bonnie think that no one will love her now that she is damaged?

Are there certain feelings that we show on the outside? What are some feelings that might only be on the inside?

Discuss with upper grades: Have you ever thought people might not like you based on how you look?

Read Pages 24-29

Vocabulary: What does “trendy” mean? (to be fashionable with the current style)

Discuss with upper grades: What is an idiom? Find the two idioms on pages 28 and 29.

What does it mean to “string someone along” and why is that a bad thing?

What does it mean to “button your lip.” Why is it important to keep your mouth shut when you don’t have something nice to say?

Discuss what makes a true friend.

What do you think Bonnie will do next?

Read pages 30-31

Discuss apologies and what it means to say sorry.

Page 31: Why is it so difficult for Bonnie to apologize?

What does forgiveness mean?

Read pages 32-33

Discuss what is happening on these two pages

Read Pages 34-38

After reading: Discuss the idea of being “perfect” and how, no matter how hard they try, no one can truly be perfect.

Have the kids write a letter to Bonnie about how proud they are of her being kind.
(If you mail the letters to Bellie Button Books, P.O. Box 1316, Woodinville, WA 98072-9818 I will share on my website)

How did the author teach you about friendship?