

Discussion Suggestions for 'The Day We Rode the Rainbow'

- 1.) **Before:**
 - Can you imagine what the book is going to be about?
 - What do you think the title means?
 - Does this book remind you of anything you have already read or seen?
 - What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?
 - What do you think is going to happen?

- 2.) **During:**
 - Tell me what has happened so far?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - Describe the setting/season/time of day of the book?
 - What does the place look like in your head as you read? Is it different than the illustrator's version? Would you want to visit there?

- 3.) **After:**
 - a) **General:**
 - What did you enjoy about this book?
 - Were there things you did not enjoy? Why?
 - Name your favorite thing overall about the book. Your least favorite?
 - What was the fear of the butterfly friends?
 - What were their dreams?
 - Did they conquer their fear? Did they reach their dreams? When? How?
 - What are some of the major themes of this book?

 - b) **Content Comprehension:**
 - What did the butterfly friends have to do before they were able to go play?
 - Did any of the butterflies have more challenges than others? Why?
 - Who was Basil's best friend before he met his new butterfly friends?
 - Did his best friend do anything nice? What?
 - Do you think the farmer children had a good, creative imagination? Why?
 - How do you think Basil felt when it started raining?
 - Why do you think that the gray-colored Basil would be a good leader on the colorful rainbow?

 - c) **Character Analysis:**
 - How did you feel about the characters?
 - Who did you like or not like? Why?
 - Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
 - Was there a main character? Why do you think that? What did he/she do?
 - If the main character went to your school, would you be friends? Why? Why not?
 - Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
 - Did any characters change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?
 - Do you think the characters were good friends? Why? How do you see that?
 - Can you list at least one characteristic trait, one descriptive word for each character?
 - If you were one of the butterfly friends, what would you have done differently?
 - What were the dynamics of "power" between the characters? How did that play a factor in their interactions?

Discussion Suggestions for 'The Day We Rode the Rainbow'

d) Content Interpretation and Association:

- Have you ever experienced anything similar to the actions of this book?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- Why do you think the author wanted to accomplish with this book?
- Was there a pivotal scene in the book? Which scene?
- Did it end the way you thought it would? Would you have ended the book differently?
- If you could change one thing in the book, what would you change?
- Was there a scene that resonated most with you personally in either a positive or negative way? Why?
- How are the book's images symbolically significant? Do the images help to develop the plot, or help to define characters?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the book?
- What specific themes did the author emphasize throughout the book?
- What do you think she is trying to get across to the reader?
- How did you think Basil felt when Willow said to him: *"It doesn't matter to us that you are different. Just think ... there is no one like you around here, and that is really cool"*?
- How do you think Salvio felt when Spruce Jr said to him: *"I think we should let Salvio have a turn and decide what to do. What do you want to do, Salvio?"*
- Have any characters changed by the end of the book? Which ones? How?
- Was there any kind of interaction between the characters that you found very positive?
- Have you done nice things for a friend? What?

e) Writing Style and Structure:

- What did you think of the structure and style of the writing?
- Does the artwork influence or change your opinion of the book? How?
- What impression does the artwork and choice of language/ vocabulary leave with you?
- What did you think about the way the story was told?
- Was it written in the first person (narrated by a character in book) or third person (independent person)?
- Did the story evoke any emotion in you at any time as a reader? What? When?
- If you could change something about the book, what would it be and why?
- Describe what you liked or disliked about the writer's style.
- Did you learn any new words or facts ?

f) Themes and Take-away Message Interpretation:

- What is this book's message?
- What did you think of the ending?
- Did this book point to an understanding or awareness of problem's children and/or teens have today? What?
- How does self-acceptance, self-awareness and tolerance help you in your daily lives?
- What can you do to help others be OK, accept who they are?
- How can you help yourself and others to be more tolerant of others' differences?
- Are there any symbols or characters in the book, directly or indirectly, that may have social, cultural, political, or religious reference?
- Have any of your views or thoughts been influenced differently or reinforced after reading this book?
- What did you take away from this book?