

I Can't Find My Whatchamacallit!!

Discussion Guide

Grades K – 7

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Say, “Being organized helps us save time, find things easily, and focus better on what we need to do. Whether it's organizing our toys at home or our school supplies in the classroom, being organized is a valuable skill that helps us succeed in different parts of our lives. As we read, think about why it is important to stay organized.”

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What is a whatchamacallit? Why do you think Cletus has a hard time keeping track of all his whatchamacallits?
- How do Cletus’s parents feel? What details from the pictures or words make you think that?
- Who is Bocephus? How is he different than Cletus?
- How does Bocephus help Cletus?
- What are some strategies that Cletus uses to help him organize his room?
- How does Cletus help Bocephus?
- What is something Bocephus can learn from Cletus?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What did Cletus learn about being organized? Do you think he will continue to be organized? Why or why not? (Optional: Pair Share)
- As a class, practice developing organizational skills by organizing the classroom together. Divide students into pairs or small groups and assign them a section of the classroom to organize. Before diving into organizing the space, have students prepare by creating a visually appealing and informative poster showcasing their chosen organizational system and its benefits. Allow students the opportunity to give and receive feedback about their organizational system before they begin organizing the space. This project will integrate math (sorting and categorizing), language arts (writing explanations for their organizational choices), and art (designing visually appealing posters) to demonstrate how organization is essential across various subjects. End this project with a discussion to reflect on what they learned. How effective was their organizational strategies? What challenges did they face? How has being organized helped them improve their daily tasks?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more books by Julia Cook such as [*My Mouth Is A Volcano*](#) and [*A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue: The Difference Between Tattling and Telling*](#).