

Friendship/Inclusiveness: 6th-8th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Friendship, Inclusiveness, Kindness

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about friendship and inclusiveness at the 6th-8th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Health, Social Studies, Anti-Bullying Initiatives

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what is this book about? What are some possible themes or central ideas? What characters and settings might appear in this book? Whose point of view appears to be central to this book?

Prior Knowledge: What does friendship look like in your school? What does inclusiveness look like? How can people maintain relationships with close friends while still including others in their activities?

Vocabulary: Identify 10-15 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to understand the theme or central idea of books you read. As you read, think about the point the author makes and how the author develops this idea throughout the book.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Provide an objective summary of the book. This means that you discuss facts about what happens in the book or the major points the book makes without referring to your own feelings about the book.
- From whose point of view is the story told? How does the author develop this person's or character's point of view throughout the book?
- Choose one or two characters and discuss how they change over the course of the book.
- How does the book's setting affect the characters or plot? If it is a nonfiction book, how does the setting affect what information the author focuses on?

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: What is the theme or central idea of the book? How does the theme or central idea relate to such elements as character, setting, and plot? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students to choose one or more significant quotes from the book. Have them journal about what the quotes mean to them and how the quotes relate to the theme of the book and to the idea of friendship and inclusiveness. As the students share journal entries, emphasize the way reading about the experiences of characters in books can help us understand our own feelings.