



Mark and the MOLECULE Maker

READING MARK

OBJECTIVE

To ask and answer questions about Mark and the Molecule Maker in order to deepen the students' insight and perspective

SKILLS

Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges, make logical inferences, analyze how and why individuals interact, describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story

Following is a list of questions for teachers and/or parents to discuss before, during and after reading **MARK AND THE MOLECULE MAKER**.

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BEFORE READING

- Are there any rules in your house? What are they?
- Is it important to respect rules? Why or why not?
- Why do you think parents and teachers have rules?
- Do you ever have trouble sleeping?
- What do you do when you can't sleep?
- What is an inventor?
- Can you name any famous inventors or inventions?
- What kinds of objects would you expect to find in a laboratory?
- Which objects in a laboratory might be dangerous?
- Do you believe in monsters? If yes, what do monsters look like? Where do they come from?
- If you don't believe in monsters, why not?

(Possible exercise: Have students draw pictures of monsters. What's the monster's name? Where does it come from? Where does it live? What does it eat? How is it different from other monsters? Students can write a short biography.)



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QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED WHILE READING

(These are questions to be asked before turning certain pages. For example, when we see Mark create the second monster, before turning the page, ask students, "Why did Mark make the second monster?")

- Why does Mark listen at the laboratory door?
Why doesn't he open the door and go inside right away? What would you do?
- Now that Mark has made a monster, what do you think happens next?
- Do you think Mark will find the blue-eyed monster? If yes, where? If no, why not?
- Now that Mark has found the blue-eyed monster, what do you think happens next?
- (When Mark is about to be squashed under the monstrous foot...)
What do you think Mark's idea is?
- Why doesn't anybody think to look up in the sky?
- Do you think people are shocked that things are suddenly returning to normal?
- What does it mean to have "chills going down your spine"?
What word best expresses the emotion of having chills going down your spine?
- What do you think causes Mark to feel chills going down his spine?

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AFTER READING

- Why do you think Mark's father forgives him?
- Have you ever been forgiven after having done something wrong?
How did you feel before being forgiven and after?
- Is it important to forgive people? Why or why not?
Is there anything someone can do that is unforgiveable?
- Why do you think Mark isn't allowed in his father's laboratory alone?
- Was it wrong of Mark to enter his father's laboratory when he heard a crash?
Why or why not? What could he have done instead?
- If you were an inventor, what would you invent?
(Possible exercise: Have students illustrate an invention of their own and then write a story in which something goes wrong with it.)
- Why do you think Mark's father winks?
- What do you think the Molecule Maker "can really do"?

POST ACTIVITY: Retell the story of Mark and the Molecule Maker adding two of the following words: alligator, motorcycle, pumpkin, air-conditioning, photograph, statue, clown, skunk, wheelbarrow, tsunami, crayon, mask, violin, sunset, lighthouse, or kite.



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