

Teacher Guide

Grades 3–4

Flat Stanley

Jeff Brown

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FLAT STANLEY

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Teacher Guide

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Note

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Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with your class.

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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Identifying attributes, research, compare/contrast, problem solving, creative and critical thinking, inferring, predicting, evaluating

Listening/Speaking

Discussion, debate

Comprehension

Identifying supporting details, sequencing, recalling, questioning, classifying, ordering, summarizing

Vocabulary

Synonyms, antonyms, sorting context clues

Literary Elements

Characterization, figurative language, story mapping

Across the Curriculum

Social Studies—geography; Science—experimentation, predicting outcomes; Math—measurement, classifying, estimating, computing shipping costs; Art—self portrait, kite making; Theater Arts—drama, skits, charades

Writing

Speech writing, creative writing, functional writing, poetry, newspaper journalism, puns

Chapter One: The Big Bulletin Board

Vocabulary

cheerfully (2) enormous (2) examined (4) despite (5)
marvel (5) altered (5)

Discussion Questions

1. Mr. and Mrs. Lambchop value politeness. Do you think it's important for children to be polite and speak carefully? Explain why or why not. (Answers will vary.)
2. How would you react to the flattening accident if you were Stanley? How is your response the same or different from Stanley's? (Answers will vary.)
3. Why isn't Dr. Dan able to help Stanley? (He is limited by his lack of knowledge about Stanley's situation, p. 3.)
4. How might Stanley's life change now that he is flat? (Answers will vary.)

Supplementary Activities

1. Dramatization: In small cooperative groups have students prepare two versions of a skit, one in which characters use politeness and careful speech and one in which they do not. Students can dramatize a simple situation such as sharing a snack with friends.
2. Science: In the story, Dr. Dan marvels at "how little [doctors] really know" about helping people. (5.) Guide students to think of questions that still puzzle scientists. For example: How many planets are there in the solar system? Are there still undiscovered creatures living in the sea and rain forests? Despite scientific research, why do these questions still remain unanswered? Students can even conduct research to discover how much scientists have learned about a particular question.

Chapter Two: Being Flat

Vocabulary

grating (8) shaft (9) sloppy (10) cuckoo (1)
expensive (12) limb (14) trapped (14)

Discussion Questions

1. Stanley learns to enjoy being flat. What does this reveal about him? (Answers will vary. Suggestion—Stanley has a positive attitude, even when he faces challenges.)
2. Why is Arthur jealous of Stanley? (Arthur resents that Stanley receives attention from his parents and others because of his flatness.)
3. Why do the police officers apologize to Mrs. Lambchop? (They realize they have misjudged the situation and have been rude.)
4. Why is thinking before you act a good rule? (Answers will vary.)

Using Predictions

We all make predictions as we read—little guesses about what will happen next, how a conflict will be resolved, which details will be important to the plot, which details will help fill in our sense of a character. Students should be encouraged to predict, to make sensible guesses as they read the novel.

As students work on their predictions, these discussion questions can be used to guide them: What are some of the ways to predict? What is the process of a sophisticated reader's thinking and predicting? What clues does an author give to help you make predictions? Why are some predictions more likely to be accurate than others?

Create a chart for recording predictions. This could be either an individual or class activity. As each subsequent chapter is discussed, students can review and correct their previous predictions about plot and characters as necessary.

Use the facts and ideas the author gives.

Use your own prior knowledge.

Apply any new information (i.e., from class discussion) that may cause you to change your mind.

Predictions

Flat Stanley Cutouts

