



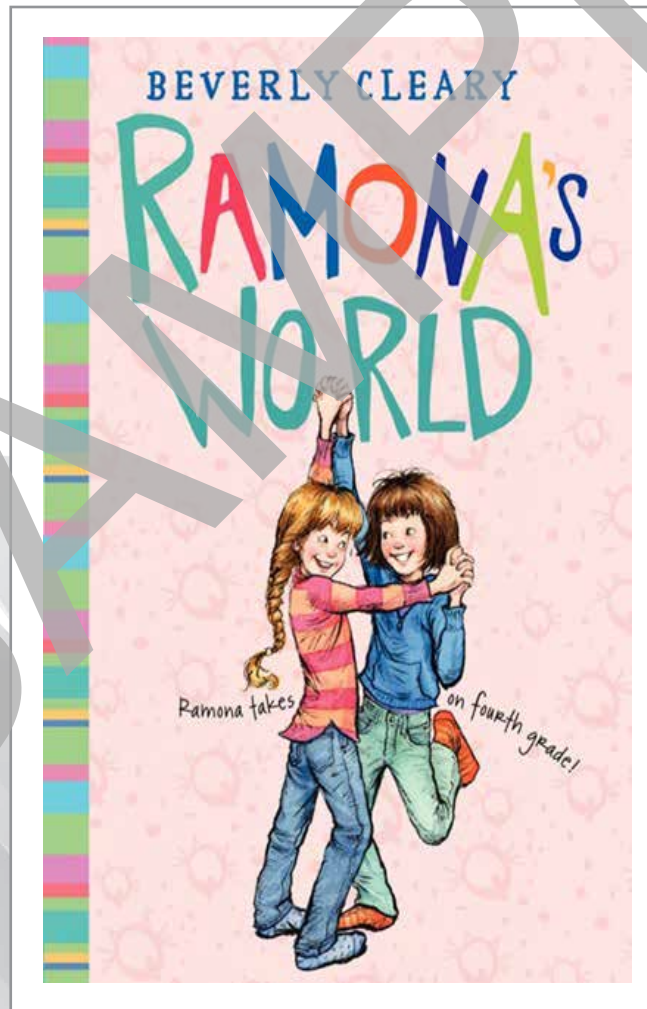
**TEACHER GUIDE**

**GRADES 3-5**

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

# Ramona's World

Beverly Cleary



**READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT**

# Ramona's World

Beverly Cleary

## TEACHER GUIDE

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

[sales@novelunits.com](mailto:sales@novelunits.com)

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## Skills and Strategies

### Thinking

Decision making, compare/  
contrast, critical thinking,  
research

### Writing

Newspaper, first-person  
narrative, descriptive, poetry,  
recipes

### Literary Elements

Characterization, story  
mapping, plot development,  
point of view

### Comprehension

Predicting, literary analysis

### Vocabulary

Target words, application,  
synonyms

### Listening/Speaking

Presentation, drama, class  
discussion, Reader's Theatre

### Across the Curriculum

Science, health, art, math,  
social studies

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## Summary

Ramona is nine years old and entering the fourth grade. She believes that this is going to be one of the best school years ever. She has a new best friend and the first day at school is better than Ramona ever dreamed it would be. Challenges arise for Ramona, and she must take on new responsibilities. Ramona's teacher isn't what Ramona expects, her sister Beezus is too perfect for words, and spelling becomes a dreaded task. But Ramona eventually realizes that love and support from her family and friends are more important than perfection.

## About the Author

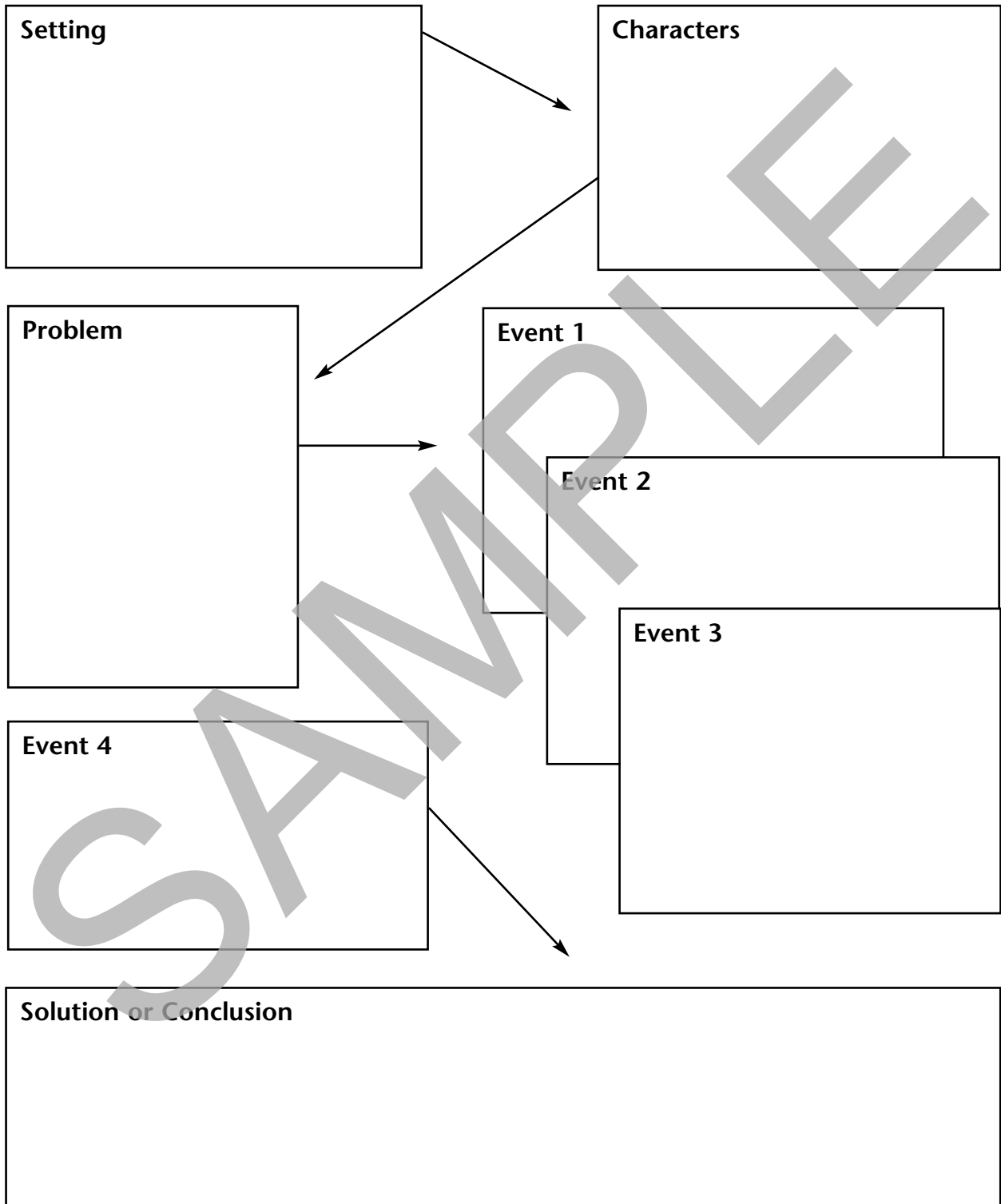
Beverly Cleary is a popular children's author. She has earned numerous prestigious awards including the American Library Association's Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, the John Newbery Medal and more than 35 statewide awards based on votes from young readers. She is married to Clarence T. Cleary and has twin daughters who are now grown.

## Introductory Activities

1. Previewing the book: Look at the cover of the book and answer the questions: who? what? where? when? why? Based on their answers, students will predict what the book will be about.
2. Anticipation Questions: Have students respond to each of the following statements with a thumbs up (I agree) or a thumbs down (I disagree) and discuss their responses.
  - \* Growing up is not frustrating or challenging.
  - \* The older you become, the more responsibilities you have in life.
  - \* Being popular in school is very important.
  - \* It is important to like who you are.
  - \* Spelling is easy for me in school.
3. Character Journal: List the main characters from the story *Ramona's World*. Each student will choose one character from the list to study throughout the story. As they read the story, the student reflects on situations and events from that character's point of view. Students need to be prepared to discuss at any time their writings with the rest of the class.
4. Given the following clues, write a paragraph predicting what the story might be about.  
friendship      attitude      popularity      values      responsibility      growing-up
5. Create an Attribute Web (p. 8 of this guide) with students for each of the following ideas: friendship, attitude, values, family, responsibility. Focus on only one word at a time. Write the word in the center of the web and ask the students to quickly tell you what the word brings to mind. Write their responses and then discuss.

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## Story Map



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## Chapter 1, Pages 9-22

### Vocabulary

cavities (9)	scrunching (10)	agreeable (10)	scatter (10)
annoying (12)	plunked (12)	calluses (13)	impressed (13)
reluctantly (14)	endear (14)	splendid (15)	plump (16)
peculiar (17)	admiration (19)	ecstatic (20)	composition (21)
confidences (21)			

### Discussion Questions

1. How many people are in Ramona's family? (*five, Mr. and Mrs. Quimby, Beezus, Ramona and Roberta*)
2. When does the story take place? (*September, the start of school*)
3. Who is Ramona's friend? (*Howie*)
4. What is Danny's nickname? (*Yard Ape*)
5. Why does Ramona call him that? (*He acts like an ape on the playground.*)
6. What is Ramona so proud to show off to the other girls at school? (*her calluses she got playing on the rings at the park*)
7. Why does Ramona dislike Susan? (*She is always tattling on the kids and tries to be too perfect at everything.*)
8. Why does Ramona think that her teacher is old when she first meets her? (*She went to school with Howie's father.*)
9. After the first day of school, how does Ramona feel about the fourth grade? (*She is excited and is looking forward to a great year.*)
10. What errors do you notice when Ramona writes her paper? (*spelling errors*)
11. Why does Ramona secretly admire Yard Ape so much? (*He always does good work and looks as if he would get in trouble, but doesn't.*)
12. Who is going to be Ramona's new friend? (*Daisy*)
13. What do Ramona and Daisy share for lunch? (*corn chips and a brownie*)

### Supplementary Activities

1. Literary Analysis/Story Maps: Have the students begin a story map (p. 7 of this guide) to use as they read. They need to continuously add information about the characters, setting, problems, and events taken from the story.
2. Health/Art: Discuss whether Daisy and Ramona ate a well-balanced lunch. Have the students pair up with a partner and draw a picture of a balanced meal on a piece of butcher paper.

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3. Literary Analysis/Character: Have students begin a character attribute web (p. 8 of this guide) for each character. Students should continue to add information to the webs as they read the following chapters.

## Chapter 2, Pages 23-38

### Vocabulary

mentally (23)	familiar (24)	scowled (24)	dreary (25)
stagecoach (26)	glumly (26)	inspiration (26)	superior (27)
enthusiasm (28)	wearily (29)	crooned (30)	corridors (30)
coax (32)	reluctantly (34)	exaggerating (35)	engulfed (36)
astonishment (36)	scarcely (37)		

### Discussion Questions

1. Why do Ramona's feelings toward the fourth grade change when she enters class on the second day of school? *(She sees a list of spelling words and she hates spelling.)*
2. What catches Ramona's attention when she sees the spelling words? *(They are all of the misspelled words from the paper she wrote.)*
3. How does Ramona's attitude change toward her teacher? *(She thinks that Mrs. Meacham lied to her about learning being fun.)*
4. What is Ramona's worst subject? *(spelling)*
5. What is the one thing that Ramona is proud of? *(her calluses)*
6. Do you think that Mrs. Meacham is really picking on Ramona or is Ramona taking everything too personally? *(Answers will vary.)*
7. How would you describe Beezus and Ramona's relationship as sisters? *(Answers will vary.)*
8. What is implied in the story that indicates Ramona is jealous of having a baby sister? *(She says that Roberta gets the attention because she is cute, and Ramona is just plain and messy. p. 35)*
9. How is Roberta copying Ramona? *(She is sticking her tongue out.)*
10. What happens that makes Ramona feel better about herself? *(She begins to feel like Roberta's role model.)*

### Supplementary Activities

1. Writing: Have the students write a paper about who they would choose as their role model. They need to provide support for their ideas and define what "role model" means to them.