

# **Suppose the Wolf Were an Octopus**

**Grades K to 2**

**A Guide to Creative Questioning  
for Primary-Grade Literature**

**Completely Revised 2014 Edition**

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Royal Fireworks Press  
Unionville, New York

# Ramona the Brave

by Beverly Cleary, 1975

*Ramona is a spunky little six-year-old who says what she thinks, acts impulsively, and makes her own decisions about school and life.*

## Level 1 (Remembering)

- What was Ramona's sister's name?
- What was the "bad word" Ramona used in the story?
- What event in the story helped Ramona feel better about herself?

## Level 2 (Understanding)

- Why does Ramona like the Brick Factory game?
- What was Ramona's reaction to her new room?
- Why does Ramona limp when she leads the morning flag salute?

## Level 3 (Applying)

- What would you do if a big dog came after you on your way to school?
- If Ramona were your sister, what would you want to say to her?
- What would you do if someone copied your drawing?

#### **Level 4 (Analyzing)**

- Compare Ramona to her sister, Beezus. How are they alike? How are they not alike?
- Why was Beezus angry at Ramona for defending her?
- Why did Ramona destroy both Susan's owl and her own owl?

#### **Level 5 (Evaluating)**

- Do you think Mrs. Griggs could have done something to make Ramona feel better about herself? If so, what?
- Did Susan deserve it when Ramona destroyed her owl? Explain your answer.
- Was Ramona's decision to throw her shoe at the dog a good one? Why or why not?

#### **Level 6 (Creating)**

- Instead of an older sister, suppose Ramona had a younger sister. How might that have influenced her behavior?
- What could Ramona have done to make sleeping in her new room less scary?
- Imagine that Mrs. Griggs had praised Ramona for her owl. How would that have changed the story?

## Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

by Verna Aardema, 1975

*Originally a West African folktale, the story reveals how a little mosquito affects the actions and behaviors of all the animals in the jungle.*

### Level 1 (Remembering)

- Which was the first animal to encounter the mosquito?
- List all the animals affected by the mosquito's actions.
- Which animal was in charge of the council?

### Level 2 (Understanding)

- Why did the python hide from the iguana?
- Why did the rabbit startle the crow?
- Why did the crow alarm the monkey?

### Level 3 (Applying)

- Could a chain of events like the one described in the story really happen? If so, how?
- What is the difference between exaggerating and telling a lie?
- Have you ever assumed something and then found out later that you were wrong? What would you do differently next time?

### Level 4 (Analyzing)

- In which part of the story could the chain of events have stopped the easiest? Explain.
- Which action by an animal was the most unrealistic? In what way?
- Which animal do you think had the most normal reaction? In what way?

### **Level 5 (Evaluating)**

- Do you think the animals learned a lesson from their experience? Explain your answer.
- Second to the mosquito, which animal do you think was most at fault for what happened? Why do you think so?
- The mosquito spends the rest of his life feeling guilty. Is that punishment enough, or should he also have been punished by the animal council? Explain your answer.

### **Level 6 (Creating)**

- Change one of the animals in the story. Tell the story with the new animal.
- Suppose the mosquito was brought to trial by the animal council. What might have happened?
- Describe a situation in which a mosquito affects the behavior of several people. Create a chain of events.