

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Bob

Written by Wendy Mass, Nicholas Gannon
224 pages / Grades 2-5

Childhood friendships are magic and we never outgrow them. There is a loyalty, a whimsy and a sense of belonging that come with them, staying with us forever. Years can go by and they pick right back up, as evidenced by the sweet - though mysterious - friendship of Livy and Bob. Readers will be hooked to know the basis of their friendship no matter whether reading independently or listening to the story. Wrap yourself up in friendship.

C Context

Characterization.
Bob is a unique character - lifelike and whimsical at the same time.

Author's craft -
creating voice, humor and wit in writing.

Droughts and their impacts

Memories and growing up

Myths and folktales

A Arts

Fantasy and whimsy.
There are few illustrations in the book, yet so many places that seem to jump off the page.

Color and tone. How does the underlying drought in the book effect the illustrations?

T Themes

Friendship

Childhood

Imagination

Love and loyalty

Growing up

Anxiety

C Create

Ask students to describe a childhood imaginary friend they had. Bring that character to life in writing, art or both. Consider word choice and humor.

Ask students to choose a piece of weather and imagine if it was gone. Write a myth that explains why it disappeared and how it came back.

Discuss memories. Represent earliest memories, and how you would encounter them now at your current age.

H Heart Words

"You're back. Took you long enough."

"It's always nice to return somewhere you've already made happy memories."

"...it's about recognizing the strength of the little guy."

"a way of describing the thrill you feel at moving toward something you are excited about, something that makes you the most alive out of anything."

Look at the last two illustrations, the last pages of the book. Write the Heart Words.

