

Read Aloud-Think Aloud Questions
My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World

Introduction and Questions About the Author Malcolm Mitchell (Book introduction)

- The author says that this book is about a kid named Henley and that Henley is a version of himself...what does that mean?
- What was Malcolm's biggest challenge when he was a kid?
- Malcolm mentioned that there is no such thing as a "bad" reader – what does that mean?

Questions About the Cover and Predictions [show cover]

- Based upon the introduction about Malcolm we just read, what type of picture do you think will be on the book cover?
- [Show the cover] What do you notice about this cover?
- What do you think about the title of the book? Do you have a very favorite book in the whole wide world?
- Why do you think that Michael Robertson, the illustrator, chose these colors for the book?
- How do you think the kid on the cover is feeling? Why do you think that?
- What do you predict will happen in this story? Why?

Comprehension Questions During the Read Aloud

- Why did people think Henley hated to read? What does Henley do instead of reading?
- Why do you think Henley takes the books to the pool to swim and feed them to the dinosaur?
- What types of books did Henley explore?
- Did he find any books that made reading easier or more fun?
- What is an "assignment"? What is the assignment Henley's teacher gives him? Why is this the "worst" homework assignment ever?
- Where does Henley go to find his favorite book? Who helps him? What types of books does he explore?
- How does Henley feel while he is looking for his favorite book?
- What are the heebie-jeebies?
- Does Henley find his favorite book at the library?
- After library, where can he try next?
- Where does he go next in search of his favorite book? Who helps him?
- What is a "book-miracle"?
- Does Henley find his favorite book at Mrs. Rackley's Bookshop? How do you know?
- Where does Henley go next? Do you think he'll give up?
- What does the word "crummy" mean?
- How does his mom help Henley?
- What was Henley's "brilliant idea"?
- What book does Henley share with the class?

- Was it easy for Henley to find his very favorite book in the whole wide world? Why didn't he like the other books he had been reading?
- What is his book about?
- In the introduction Malcolm talks about how nervous he got when reading out loud in class. How does Henley do while reading his book out loud to the class?
- Do his classmates like his book? How about his teacher? How do you know?

Inference Questions During the Read Aloud

- [Look at illustrations on pages 9 & 10]: When Mrs. Joy assigns the homework for her students to find their very favorite book in the whole wide world, there is a picture of students sitting in her classroom. What do you notice about where and how Henley is sitting? Why does the school bell sound like "a hundred horns blowing" in his ear? Why does he get a headache and do his hands get sweaty?
- [Look at illustrations on pages 13 & 14]: When Henley goes to the library, what can you tell from the pictures – does Henley look like he is having fun with his friends?
- [Look at illustrations on pages 21 & 22]: Look at the picture of Mrs. Joy's class on the day Henley has to present his favorite book. How are the students sitting? How do you think Henley feels?

Think Aloud Questions to Make Connections After the Read Aloud

- Have you ever struggled with reading? Do words sometimes seem too much to understand? Do you get nervous when you read a book out loud?
- Henley is sitting outside the reading circle in class and then isn't sitting with the other kids at the library when they are picking out books. Have you ever been outside the circle? How did that make you feel? Did anyone help bring you into the circle? How can we bring others who feel outside the circle into our circle?
- In the front of the book, author Malcolm Mitchell shares about his struggles with reading. What is something you've struggled with, and how have you been helped?
- Where are some of the places you go to find books?
- If Henley was your friend, what advice would you give him?
- Henley's mom says, "Sometimes the best stories can be found inside ourselves". What is one story of your life that you like to tell?
- How many of you play a sport? How many hours a week do you practice that sport? How many hours a week do you think the author Malcolm used to practice football when he played in college? How many hours a week did Malcolm spend reading in college then?
- How many hours a week do you spend practicing reading?
- Are any of you like Henley and do other things when you are supposed to be reading? What types of things do you do instead of reading?
- In the introduction the author says, "These are things that make me who I am, and that make me special". What makes you special and who you are?
- This book won an award for the best book to promote "Joyful Family Reading". Why do you think it was given this award? Do you think your family will enjoy reading this book together at home?
- Do you have a very favorite book in the whole wide world? If so, what book is it? How did you find it or come to read it? What is it that you love about it – the pictures, the characters, the ending?