

Reading Roundup

A Bike Like Sergio's

Written by Maribeth Boelts
Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones

Reading Roundup
Partners



Introduction

Gather the students around you so that they are able to see the illustrations of the book. Most classrooms will have an area rug defining this space. Introduce yourself and tell the students that you are excited to share *A Bike Like Sergio's*, written by Maribeth Boelts and illustrated by Noah Z. Jones.

Before Reading

Maribeth Boelts and Noah Z. Jones work together in this book to create Ruben, a character who desperately wants a bike like his friend, Sergio, who has the best bike in the neighborhood. Ruben is faced with a decision that's hard to make. As we read about Ruben, try to put yourself in his place, and think about what you would do.

During Reading

- Begin reading the book by starting on the title page. Hold the book so that students are able to see the illustrations. Give plenty of time for students to “read” and think about the pictures. Continue to read through page 9.

- **Page 8-9 – P** – *Look carefully at the illustrations on pages 8 and 9. How does the illustrator help us understand that Ruben and Sergio are friends?* (Sergio and Ruben are smiling and looking at each other. Sergio reaches out to touch Ruben as they enter the store.)

- **Page 8** *Sergio reminds Ruben that his birthday is coming up and Ruben thinks to himself, “Sergio forgets there’s a difference between his birthday and mine.”*

- **T/T** – *What is the author telling us about Ruben? Turn and talk to your neighbor about that.* (Ruben’s family doesn’t have enough money to buy Ruben the bike he wants.)

- **Page 21** *When Ruben comes home, he nods and acts busy. When his dad comes home, Ruben squeezes his eyes shut and stays still as a stone. Now, the author and illustrator make it clear how Ruben is feeling. Look at the expressions on each character’s face.* – **T/T** – *Turn and talk to your neighbor about how they might be feeling?* (Mom is worried about not having enough money to buy the food they need. The twins and the baby look up to Ruben and love being around him. Ruben is miserable because he wants the new bike, but knows the money doesn’t belong to him.)

- **Page 31** *Ruben was thrilled when he found the money again and couldn’t wait to get his new bike.* – **P** – *What happens to make Ruben’s feelings change?* (Ruben saw the woman in the blue coat - the woman who dropped the \$100 bill. He realized that the money belongs to a real person who worked hard for it and needed it to buy groceries.)

- **Page 33** – **T/T** – *Think about what you would say to the woman if you were in Ruben’s place. Turn and talk about what you would say if you were Ruben.* (You dropped your money and I found it. I want to give it back.)

After Reading

- **Turn back to page 35** *The author uses interesting words to help us understand how Ruben feels. After returning the money to the lady, he thinks to himself, “I am happy and mixed up, full and empty, with what’s right and what’s gone.”* – **P** – *How might Ruben be feeling right now?* (Ruben is confused about his feelings. He feels like he did the right thing, but also realizes what he’s given up. He knows he blessed the lady, but understands no one would have ever known if he hadn’t run after her.)

- **Turn to page 37** *One of the ways Maribeth Boelts and Noah Z. Jones make [A Bike Like Sergio’s a story we love](#), is telling us and showing us how Ruben changes over time.* – **P** – *How did Ruben feel at the beginning of the story, and how did his feelings change?* Turn to the beginning and invite children to talk about Ruben’s feelings. Slowly, turn each page and encourage children to share how the character’s feelings change when 1) he finds the money, 2) realizes it is \$100 instead of \$1, 3) believes he has lost the money, 4) sees the woman in the store, and 5) tells the story to his parents.

Remember – It’s okay to struggle when you have a hard decision to make. The important thing is to do what is right – even if it’s hard. Returning the money to the woman was the right thing to do.”

WORD WAGON

Vocabulary

Shuffle – moving around and bumping into each other p. 10

Cupboard – cabinets p. 12

Crumpled – wadded up p. 14

Retrace – go back to where you’ve been p. 24

