

Reading Roundup

Jabari Jumps

Written and Illustrated by
Gaia Cornwall

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 Jabari Jumps, written and illustrated by Gaia Cornwall.

Before Reading

Before we even open the cover of this book, the title and the cover tell us a lot about Jabari. We notice he lives in a big city. –P– What else do you notice? (He's wearing a swimsuit and goggles. He's standing on a high diving board. The story takes place during warm weather.) After looking at the front cover and reading the title, how can we use what we already know about jumping from high dives at the city pool to infer what Jabari is probably thinking and saying to himself? Let's read to see what happens to Jabari at the swimming pool.

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 11.

- **Page 11** *Look at the illustration and listen to the words the author uses to help us understand the relationship between Jabari and his dad. The author writes, "...when his dad squeezed his hand, Jabari squeezed back."* **-T/T-** *What would make Dad squeeze Jabari's hand? What would make Jabari squeeze back? Turn and talk to your neighbor.* (We can tell Jabari and his dad care about each other by the way they are holding hands. Dad most likely squeezes Jabari's hand to show him he knows he is frightened even though he said, "Looks easy.")
- **Page 23** *Jabari, with the help of his dad, found the courage to climb up, up, up the ladder, walk to the end of the diving board, and curl his toes around the edge. Notice what Jabari sees as he looks down.* **-P-** *What do you think he might be saying to himself?* (Ooooh! I can't do this. I want to walk back down. I'll do this later. I'm too scared...)
- **Page 33** **-T/T-** *Jabari's family is so excited when he overcomes his fear. Based on what we know about Jabari, what do you think he will probably do next?* (He'll want to jump over and over again.)

After Reading

Think about Jabari's relationship with his dad. **-T/T-** *What would his dad have probably said if Jabari decided to go home without jumping? What does Dad say or do to make you think that?* (Dad would have given Jabari a big hug and told him he can jump when he's ready. I know this because Dad said on page 14, "Maybe you should climb down and take a tiny rest.") *Jabari's dad helped him in many ways. He said on page 19, "Sometimes, if I feel a little scared, I take a deep breath and tell myself I am ready. And you know what? Sometimes, it stops feeling scary and feels a little like a surprise."* **-P-** *Do you remember what Jabari whispered to himself when he was at the top of the diving board?* (I love surprises.)

-T/T- *Think about a time you were frightened to take a responsible risk. What did you say to yourself to have courage? Was there someone who helped you overcome your fear? Turn and talk to your neighbor.* Answers will vary.

Remember- we all are faced with scary things. What's important is that we feel comfortable saying no when things don't feel right. It's important to find at least one person in our lives who we trust to help us overcome scary things.

Note - The author effectively uses simple vocabulary to allow children to think about what the character is saying and what the character is actually thinking.

Vocabulary

Different words Jabari uses to say, "I'm scared."

- You can go before me. p. 13
- I need to think about my special jump. p. 13
- I'm just a little tired. p. 14
- I forgot to do my stretches! p. 16
- I think tomorrow might be a better day. p. 17



**WORD
WAGON**

