

Reading Roundup

The Greatest Adventure

Written and Illustrated
by Tony Piedra

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 The Greatest Adventure, written and illustrated by Tony Piedra.

Before Reading

What do you think it means to go on an adventure? - P – Think for a moment about a personal adventure you've had. Maybe your adventure was going to a special place, learning something new, accomplishing something hard. (Answers will vary.)

Today we will meet Eliot, a young city-boy who goes on imaginary adventures. Let's read together to find out what kind of adventures Eliot has in The Greatest Adventure.

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 3.

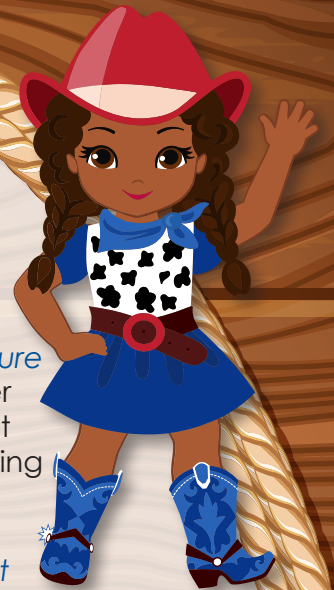
- **Page 3 - T/T** - *Look at the two illustrations on this page. Turn and talk to your partner about what the illustrations do to help us decide if this adventure is really happening or if it's an adventure in Eliot's imagination.* (Left side - After it rained, Eliot made a paper boat that he sailed in the rain water. Right side - Eliot dreamed that the paper boat was a real boat sailing in the ocean.) Continue reading through page 7.

- **Page 7 T/T** - *Did Eliot really sail a boat in the ocean? Did he really come face to face with a wild beast? Turn and talk your partner about how we know.* (No, the boat and the beast were both imagined by Eliot. The author writes, “But just as things were looking good...the world would interrupt.”) Continue reading through page 13.

- **Page 13 - P** - *Look at the picture. Why is El Capitán sleeping on the couch?* (He is at Eliot's house for a short visit. His house probably doesn't have an extra bed.) - **T/T** - *Turn and talk to your partner about what you think Eliot wants to say to El Capitán?* (Eliot probably says, “El Capitán, get up, let's go on an adventure together. Let's go on an adventure like the ones you told me about.”) Continue reading through page 16.

- **Page 16** - *I need to stop and think about how the author called tall buildings “concrete giants.” Do you think Eliot was imagining concrete giants? I'm not sure.*

- Continue reading the rest of the story making sure students have time to “read” the illustrations.



After Reading

- **Page 33** *Look closely at this illustration. Do you see the skyline of the city in the background? Do you remember seeing the paper boat earlier in the story? - T/T - Using the words and illustrations as evidence, do you think the boat adventure with El Capitán is a real or imaginary adventure? Turn and talk to your partner.* (The adventure is imaginary because Eliot used a net to “fix” the hole in the boat. The paper boat is floating in the water. The paper boat has been a symbol of Eliot's imagination since the beginning of the book.)

Remember, your imagination can take you places and give you experiences that are you never dreamed possible. Having real adventures are wonderful, but most real adventures begin with your dreams and imagination.

Vocabulary

Adventure p. 2

Tracked – followed p. 4

Enchanted – can't stop thinking about it because it's so great p.12

Stalked – followed p.17

Catchy – fun and unforgettable p.28



**WORD
WAGON**