

## READING COMPREHENSION NOVEL STUDIES - BEVERLY CLEARY

### OVERVIEW

A series of five exciting and interesting titles provide a framework for this new approach to reading. Comprehension is the main focus, with multiple choice questions designed to ensure students understand what they are reading. The titles include:

- 1) Ramona the Pest
- 2) Ramona Quimby, Age 8
- 3) The Mouse and the Motorcycle
- 4) Runaway Ralph
- 5) Ellen Tebbits

The high interest - low vocabulary format of these novels is perfect for reluctant readers and is sure to keep students motivated to read. For the teacher, flexibility is key, with students being assigned novels to read individually, in small groups or as a class.

### SUGGESTED TEACHING STRATEGIES

A number of possible strategies describing how these units might be used in the classroom is given. These include:

- 1) Whole Class Instruction
- 2) Individualized Approach
- 3) Small Group Instruction
- 4) Listening Skills Test

A possible reward system to help motivate student reading is also given.

### STORY SUMMARIES

A synopsis and bibliographic information for each of the novels has been included for teacher reference.

### ANSWER KEY

Answer keys for each novel are provided.

## Chapter 6 “Supernuisance”

1. Why didn't Ramona tell her teacher she wasn't feeling well?  
 (a) The teacher would think she was a nuisance.  
 (b) The teacher would send her home and she would miss the class party.
2. How did Ramona get home? She got home  
 (a) She got home in a taxi.  
 (b) Her mother drove her home in their car.
3. Why was Ramona crying?  
 (a) The class laughed at her.  
 (b) She threw up.  
 (c) Her father didn't worry when she said she was sick.
4. Ramona started wishing she didn't have to go to school because her teacher thought she was a nuisance. She tried to be good all the time and not bother the teacher, but she was unhappy. For the best help, she should have gone to  
 (a) Her parents. They would have listened, and they probably would have said there must have been a misunderstanding. They would have arranged a meeting with the teacher so that the problem could be discussed and straightened out.  
 (b) The other kids in the class. Some of them might have agreed that the teacher was mean, and this would have made her feel better.
5. Why didn't Ramona stay home when she was sick?  
 (a) She didn't realize she was sick until after school started.  
 (b) She was afraid her parents would think she was a nuisance.
6. The pediatrician told Mrs. Quimby a person who is throwing up needs fluids. What is a pediatrician? (Use your dictionary if you need help.) A pediatrician is a doctor who specializes in looking after  
 (a) Stomach problems.  
 (b) Children's diseases.
7. The Quimbys did not have a lot of money, and now their car wasn't working. Ramona thought Mr. Quimby was more worried about his car than about her. Do you think Ramona is being fair?  
 (a) No, she is not being fair. Mr. Quimby didn't even know that she wasn't feeling great so naturally he was not worried about her in the morning.  
 (b) Yes, Ramona is right. Parents should always be worrying about their children.



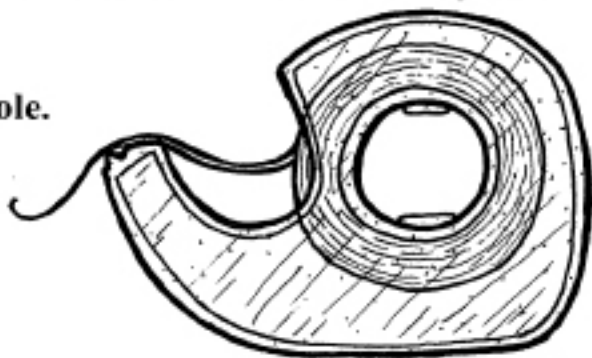
## Chapter 2 “The Biennial Beet”

1. Why did Ellen think Miss Joyce didn't like her?  
 (a) Miss Joyce never picked Ellen to clap erasers.  
 (b) Miss Joyce always picked Austine to take notes to the principal's office.  
 (c) Miss Joyce always seemed more interested in what Otis said in class.
2. Who gave Ellen a ride to school? It was  
 (a) Ellen's big brother.  
 (b) Otis.  
 (c) Austine's big brother.  
 (d) Henry Huggins.  
 (e) Otis' big brother.



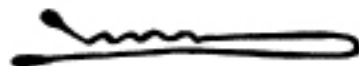
## Chapter 3 “Leave it to Otis”

1. What did Otis bring to school? He brought  
 (a) Bugs.  
 (b) Marbles.  
 (c) Beans.
2. Why did Ellen wear Austine's sweater?  
 (a) She was catching a cold.  
 (b) The girls liked to wear each other's clothes because they were best friends.  
 (c) Ellen's dress was dirty.  
 (d) Ellen wanted to hide her mole.



## Chapter 4 “Ellen Rides Again”

1. What happened in this chapter?  
 (a) Austine let Ellen ride her horse.  
 (b) Ellen fell off the first horse she rode, but Austine talked her into trying again.  
 (c) Austine's mother invited Ellen on a picnic.  
 (d) Ellen's report was on horses.



## RAMONA THE PEST

### Bibliographic Information

Beverly Cleary, Avon Camelot, c1968.

### Story Synopsis

*Ramona the Pest* liked kindergarten, but things often went wrong. To show Miss Binney what a good job she was doing on the first day of school when she was supposed to be resting, she snored, but, unfortunately, this made the rest of the class giggle. She liked a shy boy named Davy, so she chased him daily to try to kiss him, but this resulted in accidentally tearing a button off his shirt. She admired Henry Huggins, the traffic boy, but annoyed him by imitating him when crossing the street and embarrassed him by announcing that she was going to marry him after he pulled her out of some mud.

Ramona's most serious problem arose on a day that should have been special because she lost her first tooth. When Susan refused to admire the gap in her teeth, Ramona retaliated by playing with Susan's hair. To make things worse, Susan called Ramona a pest, and Ramona hated being called a pest. Miss Binney asked Ramona if she would stop pulling Susan's hair, but Ramona was not ready to comply, so she was sent home. This was a disaster because she really liked Miss Binney and kindergarten, and now she was convinced that Miss Binney did not like her. She found that staying home from school was not fun because she was not allowed to watch TV. Things finally were set right when Miss Binney sent Ramona a note asking when she would be coming back to kindergarten.

### Suggested Grade Levels

Children from grades two to four will enjoy this book.

