

Children's Favorite Authors and Illustrators

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963

by Christopher Paul Curtis

LitART Novel MAP

7-8



Chapter 1

BEFORE

Motivation: Have you ever been in a very cold place, in an ice storm or blizzard, for example?

Bridge to Text: This book begins during a deep freeze in Flint, Michigan.

Set Purpose: Compare your memories and ideas about being cold to the beginning of this book.

DURING

Participation

Strategy: Read Aloud

AFTER

Discuss this quote: "It was so cold that if you spit the slob would be an ice cube before it hit the ground. It was about a zillion degrees below zero." (p. 1)

Literacy Response: Like People Really Talk

Journal: Use creative spelling to write a short dialogue that sounds like one or both people is speaking in an unusual way.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the Watsons doing to cope with the cold as the chapter begins?
2. Why does Dad send Kenny and Byron outside?
3. What does Kenny remember about "Surviving a Blizzard, Part One"?
4. How does Byron get stuck to the car and what does Kenny do to help?
5. How does Byron get "unstuck"?
6. Why does Momma feel the coldest?
7. What are Kenny's feelings about his brother, Byron?
8. Why do you think the author included Kenny's memory of "How to Survive a Blizzard, Part One" in this chapter?
9. What techniques has the author used to draw you into this story and make you want to keep reading?

LITERAL

INFERENTIAL

EVALUATIVE

WORD COLLECTION

automatically

thermostat

icebox

passionate