

# SHIVERS!

*The Pirate Who's Afraid of EVERYTHING*

Teaching  
Guide



## ABOUT THE BOOK:

Shivers is the scaredy-est pirate on the high seas. While his parents sail the ocean, Shivers lives on a beached boat with Albee, best friend—and fish. Everything is nice and safe until Shivers receives a message by carrier pigeon that his family has been captured! At the police station seeking help, Shivers meets the chief's daughter, Margo, who is practically dying of boredom. Saving Shivers's family sounds like the perfect adventure to her. With Margo's courage, Albee's ingenuity, and Shivers's determination, they battle a squid and an evil hot-dog chef—but will this be enough to help Shivers save the day?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On page 4, the text reads, "In one brave motion, Shivers raised his arm and smashed the snooze button!" Would you describe Shivers as actually brave in this moment? Why or why not? What would you say is Shivers's primary character trait at the story's start? Why? Use a quotation as evidence for your answer. How does his primary trait provide motivation for his actions? *Common Core State Standards (Literacy):* RL.3.1., RL.4.1., RL.5.1., RL.6.1., RL.3.3., RL.4.3.
2. Reread chapter 2. What would you say is Margo's primary character trait at the story's start? Why? Use a quotation as evidence for your answer. How does her primary trait provide motivation for her actions? *Common Core State Standards (Literacy):* RL.3.1., RL.4.1., RL.5.1., RL.6.1., RL.3.3., RL.4.3.
3. Describe the similarities, or comparisons, between Margo and Shivers. Describe the differences, or contrasts, between them. Use evidence to support your answers. How do Shivers and Margo affect each other, due to their similarities and differences, over the course of the story? How do their similarities and differences relate to the story's plot? *Common Core State Standards (Literacy):* RL.3.1., RL.4.1., RL.5.1., RL.6.1., RL.3.3., RL.4.3., RL.5.3., RL.6.3.
4. There are many similes sprinkled throughout this novel. For example, on page 67 "Shivers and Margo heard a low gurgling sound like there was a lawn mower inside the squid's belly." What does this simile tell you about the gurgling sound? Look for other similes on pages 64 through 69. Discuss what each one means, as well as how they help create the story's overall tone. *Common Core State Standards (Literacy):* RL.5.4., RL.6.4., L.3.5.A, L.4.5.A., L.5.5.A.
5. Examine the illustrations in *Shivers!: The Pirate Who's Afraid of EVERYTHING*. How do they contribute to the story? For example, how do they contribute to characterizations and the story's tone? How do they clarify or complement what's described with words? *Common Core State Standards (Literacy):* RL.3.7., RL.4.7., RL.5.7.
6. On page 23, Margo says to Albee: "Courage is not the absence of fear; it's mastery of fear." (The quotation also appears at the end of the story, on page 163.) What does this mean? Consider the entire story. Would you say this is the story's theme? Why or why not? If you don't think it is, what do you think is the story's theme? Use examples to support your answer. *Common Core State Standards (Literacy):* RL.4.2., RL.5.2., RL.6.2.

Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) also addressed by all questions:  
SL.3.1.A-D., SL.4.1.A-D., SL.5.1.A-D., SL.6.1.A-D., SL.3.6., SL.4.6., SL.5.6., SL.6.6.

Teaching guide prepared by Laura Williams McCaffrey. Permission to reproduce and distribute this page has been granted by the copyright holder, HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

