

DCF Book Club Activities for *Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin

By Julie Pickett, Stowe Free Library

Food – Bananas, bagels, and peanut butter, or crackers and peanut butter (what Rose ate during the hurricane) and a beverage.

Discussion –

1. Start by asking each person whether they liked the book or not. Assure the group there are no wrong answers.
2. This book has four main characters: Rose, her father, Uncle Weldon, and Rain the dog. Who is your favorite and least favorite character? Why?
3. Talk about Rose's father. Why is he so hard on Rose? Does he do anything nice for her? Why does Rose say in the end of the book that she and her father are both brave? (pg. 219)
4. What role does Uncle Weldon play in Rose's life?
5. There are lots of secondary characters in the book. Parvani, Rose's teacher Mrs. Kushel, her aid Mrs. Leibler, Mrs. Caporale from the shelter, etc. How do these people influence Rose?
6. How does Rain help Rose? Is he her only friend? Talk about the role pets play in people's lives.
7. What role does the hurricane play in the book? Why do you think the author set the story in the middle of a hurricane?
8. Rules are very important to Rose. How does this characteristic influence Rose's decision to give up Rain?
9. Rose is different from her classmates. How is she different? How is she the same? Do you know anyone who has autism or asperger syndrome? Has this book changed the way you might feel about or interact with a person with disabilities?
10. Rose spends a lot of time alone. What do you think that would be like? Would you be scared to be alone? What does Rose do when she's alone?
11. Rose likes words, particularly homonymns. What is a homonym? Do you like to write? Do you keep a journal? If you were to make a list of words, what would your list be like?
12. Do you think Rose is a happy person? Why or why not? If you could write another chapter, what would Rose be doing? What lies ahead for Rose? Do you think she will ever see Rain again?
13. Did you like the way the book ended? How did the ending make you feel.

Activities – (choose one)

- Play homophone bingo. You can download a completed template at Read2bfree.com/uploads/Homophone_Bingo_for_web.pdf. A modified version of the word definitions (to go along with this book) is attached.
- Do a writing exercise. Have the kids write a scene from Rose's father's point of view, write a scene that might be happening in Rose's future, or have your kids write a letter to Rose.
- Have someone from a shelter come to your book club. Learn what you can do to help animals in the shelter.
- Play trivia.

Sample Trivia:

1. What is the name of the garage where Rose's father works?
J & R Garage
2. What is the name of the bar where Rose's father goes after work?
The Luck of the Irish
3. What kind of numbers are Rose's favorite?
Prime numbers
4. Why does Rose stop riding the bus to school?
Because she was bothering the bus driver (she kept telling her what she was doing wrong)
5. What is the name of Rose's school?
Hatford Elementary
6. What is a "prime number name", according to Rose?
Rose adds up the letters in a person's name (A=1, B=2, etc.). If these letters add up to a prime number, they have a "prime number name".
7. What does Rose like to look at when she is home alone?
The contents of her mother's hatbox.
Sometimes she counts the items in the kitchen cupboards.
8. What are some things inside Rose's mother's hatbox?
 - a necklace with a silver bird's nest
 - a seashell called an auger
 - a photo of a black cat
 - a pin shaped like the letter R
 - a hatpin
 - a buffalo head nickel
 - a newspaper wedding announcement
 - Rose's hospital bracelet
9. What is the name of the hurricane in the book?
Hurricane Susan
10. When the toilet stops working during the storm, what does Rose's father tell her to do?
Go pee outside.
11. Who said "I've been thinking. Rose here should have another dog."?
Uncle Weldon.
12. Who are the Hendersons?
Rain's real owners.
13. What was Rain's real name?
Olivia.

Homophone Bingo definitions for Rain Reign

Make these into strips of paper, then draw them randomly out of a bowl.
(Rose is narrating).

Rain – I named my dog Rain because he was found outside in the rain.

Reign – If I was queen, I would reign over the land.

Rode – Uncle Weldon and I rode around for hours looking for Rain.

Road – Trees crashed into the road during the hurricane.

Dye – Maybe my friend Parvani will dye her hair with henna.

Die – I was afraid Rain would die in the storm.

No – If you ask me to break a rule, I will say no!

Know – Do you know your prime numbers?

Sea – It rained so much, our yard looked like the sea.

See – Did you see the missing dog posters I put up around town?

Not – It is NOT all right to shout in class.

Knot – When kids are mean to me, I get a knot in my stomach.

Plain – My father prefers the plain donuts with his coffee.

Plane – Maybe someday I will go on a plane to visit my mother.

Sweet – I put sugar on my cereal to make it sweet.

Suite – I have heard about hotel suites but I have never stayed in one.

Buy – We need to buy supplies before the hurricane comes.

Bye – Uncle Weldon waves goodbye, when he drops me off at school.

Vein – Everyone has veins in their bodies, even dogs.

Vain – Vain is when you stare at yourself all the time in the mirror.

Weight – Rain has been putting on weight since he came to live with me.

Wait – I had to wait a long time before I found Rain.

Meet – I am going to meet some people today at the animal shelter.

Meat – I fed Rain a lot of meat because he was so skinny.

Whole – Uncle Weldon could eat a whole pizza by himself.

Hole – Rain is digging a big hole in the back yard.

Inn – I wonder what it would be like to stay at a Holiday Inn.

In – I had an outburst in school yesterday.

Him – When my father let Rain out during the storm, I was mad at him.

Hymn – A hymn is a song you sing in church.

Jeans – My father could use a new pair of jeans.

Genes – Was I born with bad genes that make me act this way?

Peace – I hope that my father and Uncle Weldon will make peace with each other.

Piece – I would love a piece of pie.

Write – I am going to write a new list of homonyms.

Right – I am sure I have the right answer.

Sole – There is a hole in the sole of my shoe.

Soul – Sometimes the music that comes out of the radio has a lot of soul.

Throne – If I was Queen, I would sit on a throne.

Thrown – During the storm, our lawn chairs were thrown around the yard.

Break – If Rain runs inside the house, he might break things.

Brake – My father's truck needs new brakes.

Night – I am used to being alone at night.

Knight – Uncle Weldon is my knight in shining armor.

Red – When I am angry, I see the color red.

Read – I haven't read any good books lately.

Ate – I ate too much pizza and now I have a stomach ache.

Eight – Eight is not a prime number.