

Parent/Teacher Guide for Subway Sonata

Before sharing this story, you may want to define the word, “sonata.”

A sonata is a musical composition, written for instruments, and can have three or four parts.

Possible questions to ask *before* reading **Subway Sonata**

1. Just by reading the title, what do you think this book is about?
2. What do you think the setting is for this story?
 - a. Did the title give you any clues about the story and the setting?
 - b. Did the cover art give you any clues about the story and the setting?
 - c. If so, what were they?

Things to look and listen for **while** reading **Subway Sonata**

1. Listen for the names of the four main characters in the story.
2. Listen for what each character can't stop thinking about.
3. Look for and listen to the “thought” balloons at the beginning of the story.
4. Look for picture clues that show what each character really loves doing.
5. Look for picture clues that tell you something about each character that are not mentioned in the words of the story.

Questions to ask *after* reading **Subway Sonata**

1. Was there one character you liked more than the others? Why?
2. How many ways were they were alike?
3. How many ways were they different?
4. Where did each character get their ideas?
5. What helped each character “re-think” their ideas?
6. Does each character go through three or four stages before their work is finished?
7. Why do you think the word “sonata” is in the title?
8. Pick one of the characters. What do you think his or her next project will be?

continued

Questions to ask after thinking about **Subway Sonata**

1. Can ideas come from watching ordinary things in ordinary places?
2. Did you think so before reading this book? If not, did the story help to change your mind?
3. Do you now think that listening and watching are good ways to get ideas?
4. Have you ever come up with a great idea that you later thought was no good?
 - a. If so, how did you feel and act when that happened?
 - b. How did you try to “re-think” the idea?
 - c. What was the final outcome?
5. Did the story give you some clues to help you when you are frustrated? If so, what are they?
6. What new things did you learn about artists and how some might spend their time and energy?
7. Did the book’s title and cover art give you a good idea of what the story actually turned out to be? Why or why not?