



## READING

# Weird the Beard

### OBJECTIVE

To ask and answer questions about Weird the Beard in order to deepen students' insight and perspective

### SKILLS

Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges, make logical inferences, analyze how and why individuals interact, describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story.

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Following is a list of questions for teachers and/or parents to discuss before, during and after reading **WEIRD THE BEARD**.

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED BEFORE READING

- Why do you think the main character's name is Weird?  
Would it be as interesting if his name was Strange, Odd, or Frank?
- What other synonyms do you know for the word "weird"?  
(Possible answers: unusual, bizarre, peculiar, wacky, abnormal, uncommon, etc.)
- Do you know anyone who has a beard? Is it weird? Why or why not?  
Do you know anyone who would look better with a beard?
- What are some reasons a person might grow a beard? Why might a person be obligated to grow a beard? Why might a person choose not to grow a beard? Why might a person shave his beard?
- Why can men grow beards but women can't?
- Why do people tell jokes?
- What's the funniest joke you've ever heard?
- Is laughing important? Why or why not?

(Possible exercise: Have students draw pictures of anthropomorphic characters. What's the character's name? Where does it come from? Where does it live? What does it eat? How is it different from other anthropomorphic characters? Students can write a short biography.)



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# Weird the Beard

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED WHILE READING

(These are questions to be asked before turning certain pages. For example, when Weird falls off his face in a strange place, before turning the page, ask students to describe what they think the "place" will look like. This is especially effective before the second and third strange places, i.e. after they've seen the first strange place. Students can also draw illustrations of the places they describe.)

- The story says Weird the Beard "came from friendly folk". Who do you think these "folk" are? Who might Weird's parents be? Does he have any brothers or sisters? If yes, what do they look like? Why do you think Weird's folk are described as friendly? Give specific examples.
- Are you familiar with the joke about the skunk? What do think the punchline is?
- In what way/s could being funny help Weird grow?
- Why do you think Weird wants to make a new friend?
- Is it possible for a beard to fall off someone's face? Why or why not?
- Why is it strange to find a comb in a tree? What's weird about the comb itself?
- Why do you think the comb left before Weird could tell it the punchline to his joke?
- What do you think "another strange place" is going to look like? Describe it.  
(Possible exercise: Students can draw illustrations of the places they describe.)
- Why do you think the scissors left before Weird could finish his joke?
- What do you think the "final strange place" is going to look like? Describe it.
- Why is the razor standing on the street? Is it waiting for someone or something? If so, who and/or what?

### QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED AFTER READING

- Did you think the joke's punchline was funny? Why or why not?
- According to the story, why is it important to "choose your friends wisely"?
- What does "rub off on" mean? What does it mean that your friends rub off on you? Can you give an example?
- Why do you think Weird's name changes when he becomes a moustache?  
In your opinion, is Weird the Beard still Weird the Beard (in other words, is it only his name that changes or is he a different character completely)? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Weird meets a comb, a pair of scissors, and then a razor?  
How would the story be different if he met a clock, a telephone, or a helicopter?
- Do you think telling jokes is a good way to make friends?  
Can you think of other ways to make friends?
- Why does Weird keep trying to tell the same joke? Why doesn't he try different jokes?  
Can you think of any other jokes he could have told?



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