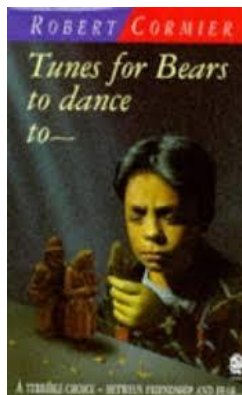


Tunes for Bears to Dance to



CHARACTER
BASED
LITERACY



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Author Cormier, Robert

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Genre Young Adult Fiction

Synopsis After his brother's death, Henry moves with his parents to a new town, where he meets and befriends Mr. Levine, an elderly survivor of the Holocaust who spends his days craving a replica of his childhood village. Enter Mr. Hairston, who holds power over Henry's life. He is a man of glittering promises, but he exacts a terrible price from Henry that involves the boy's friendship with Mr. Levine.

Themes Mortality

Protagonist Henry

Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 1



Key Paragraph - 6

“Henry had been new in the neighborhood when he was hired. His father had not worked since Eddie died. He had not gambled, either, and seldom left the tenement. His mother had found a job in the Miss Wickburg Diner downtown, but the pay was small and the tips did not amount to much. Henry had roamed the neighborhood, homesick for the people and streets of Frenchtown in Monument...”

Writing Prompt

The tone of today's reading is sad. Henry's family is grieving. They do not have much money, and the main character is lonely for the life he knew in his hometown. Pretend you are Henry. Write an argumentative letter to your father, telling him how important it is to you that he find a way to deal with his grief. Provide examples of what you think he should do. Let him know what you think will happen if he does not learn how to reach acceptance. Also, provide a counterargument somewhere in your letter, but be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance. When you have finished your assignment, publish your work to an online forum

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 2



The old man is also dealing with grief. And the store he goes to each day helps him deal with his grief in a positive way. Write an argumentative paragraph that claims that the old man's work is important for him to overcome his grief. How do you think his work helps him? What are some other ways one could deal with their grief in a creative and positive manner? You may use the internet or other authoritative print resources to help you get some ideas. Provide a counterargument in your paragraph somewhere, but be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your argument's stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 3



Writing Prompt

Why do you think Henry and Mr. Levine might be good for each other? Write an argumentative paragraph that provides at least two logical reasons. Provide a counterargument somewhere in your paragraph, but be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your main argument. When you have finished your writing, upload your work to the online forum of your choice (blog, google docs).

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 4



Think about the things that Henry has learned so far from his relationship to Mr. Hairston. Think about the things Henry has already learned from spending time with George Graham and Mr. Levine. Write a paragraph that argues in favor of having good role models. Draw on personal experience as well as examples from the text to support your claims; include an anecdote or a reference to the reading so far. Be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 5



In the story, it is clear that Mr. Hairston is prejudiced against many people in the town, especially the old man. Write an argumentative paragraph about the dangers of prejudice. Begin with either a statement of fact, a statement of value, or a statement of policy. Use logic, or an anecdote, or both. You may use your own life as an example, reference the text, or both. Be sure to be specific in the examples you chose to illustrate your point. Provide a counterargument somewhere in your work. Be sure to conclude your paragraph with a reiteration of your stance. When you have finished writing, upload your work to the online forum of your choice (Blog, Google Docs, etc.)

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 6



Key Paragraph - 60

“Later as Henry took off his apron and prepared to leave for the day, Mr. Hairston told him that he was being fired at the end of the week.”

Writing Prompt

Pretend that you are Henry’s counselor and he has told you all that is going on with Mr. Hairston. Give Henry some sound advice about what to do next. Write your advice down in a paragraph addressed to Henry. Make an argument with the advice you give – take a stance with your advice. What do you think he should do and why? Remember that the theme of this unit is Justice Requires Restrain – how can Henry display justice through restraint? Make a counterargument somewhere in your letter, but be sure to conclude with a reiteration of your stance.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 7



Key Paragraph - 64

"This village," the giant said, "will be a reminder to everybody about what happened during the war. But also about survival. And how good can overcome evil. That's what this village symbolizes." Then the giant looked ashamed and actually blushed. "Speech over...let's celebrate," he said.

Writing Prompt

In today's reading, Henry must think about what he should do – carry out Mr. Hairston's request or be faithful to his friend Mr. Levine.

Write an argumentative paragraph that begins with "Good can overcome evil" – then back it up with evidence from the book, your own life, or both. Are there instances in history when good overcame evil? Do you have any examples from your own life? Be sure to end your writing with a reiteration of your stance. When you have finished your work, upload it to the online forum of your choice (Blog, Google Docs, etc.).

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 8



Henry has a lot to gain by carrying out Mr. Hairston's request. He will earn more money for himself and bring greater security to his home. He may lose some things if he does not do it. Henry has a conscience. *Be his conscience* and advise Henry on what he *ought* to do. Write a paragraph that argues either for or against Henry accomplishing the task Mr. Hairston wants him to do. Why do you believe that this is the best choice? Provide a counterargument and Include the conciliatory phrase, "While it is true that..." in constructing your argument. Be sure to maintain a formal tone throughout your writing and conclude with a reiteration of your stance. .

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 9



Henry has done the horrible thing, but now has the chance to refuse the rewards. Be Henry's conscience again and convince him why he should not accept the rewards from Mr. Hairston. In an argumentative paragraph, claim that Mr. Hairston is unjust. What makes him that way? How can this be seen in the deed he makes Henry do? (You may use the theme of justice requires restraint in your argument). Be logical and maintain a formal tone in your writing. When you have finished your work, upload it to the online forum of your choice (Blog, Google Docs, ect.)

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Tunes for Bears to Dance to, Day 10



FINAL Argumentative Essay Assignment:

Imagine you are Henry, all grown up. You have learned a lot in your life, and you don't want others to make the same mistakes you made. Write an argumentative essay about the importance of justice and respect. You should use information, examples, and quotations from both *Friedrich* and *Tunes For Bears to Dance To* to back up your arguments. You may also choose to reference more current information and your own opinions. You must provide a clear opinion-based thesis. Include both logical and anecdotal arguments, and be sure to provide at least one concession. You may wish to refer to previous snapshot journals.

Or

Write an argumentative essay on some other topic that has been approved by your teacher. Some suggestions include:

- The dangers of prejudice
- The harm that racism can cause
- The importance of being a loving parent
- The importance of friendship
- Good can overcome evil
- The benefits of seeing yourself as a survivor, rather than a victim