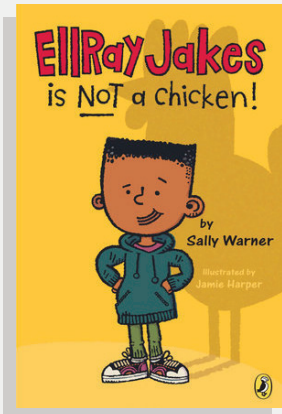


Book Club for Kids



***EllRay Jakes is
NOT a Chicken!***
by Sally Warner

Recommended Ages:
7-11



helenplum.org

Summary: EllRay Jakes is the smallest kid in Ms. Sanchez's third grade class. The series is told in a humorous, first-person perspective as EllRay tries to stand up to bullies at school and live up to his dad's high expectations.

Discussion Questions:

Before Reading: Ask the readers if they have ever been picked on. How did it make them feel? What did they do to stand up for themselves? Did they decide to tell an adult? Why or why not?

1. Make predictions based on each chapter title. At the end of each chapter, have the readers confirm or change their predictions based on what they've learned.
2. Talk about each chapter title. What is their favorite book title? Which titles captured their curiosity?
3. Would they have made the same choices that EllRay did? Why or why not?
4. Did they like the book? Why or why not?
5. How can readers relate to EllRay? Share stories and draw connections.
6. What do you think EllRay's classmates or teacher could have done to stop bullying at school? What are some specific things readers could do to stand up to bullying?

Activities:

- Create an acrostic poem by writing "STOP BULLYING" so that the letters run vertically on the page. Use each letter to write one specific thing they can do to stand up to bullying. Example: **S**peak up if you see someone being picked on.
- Play a variation of "Simon Says" to learn new things about each other and celebrate similarities and differences. After the game, share what they learned about each other. For example, "Simon says, 'Everyone who loves spaghetti with meatballs, stand up.'"
- Write a theatrical scene or illustrate a comic strip dramatizing a favorite chapter or moment from the book.
- Write the first chapter about EllRay's first day of 4th grade. Make sure to include an intriguing title for the chapter.

Adapted from Milwaukee Public Library.