

*Art Club*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades 3 - 7

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

Discuss different types of art and the meaning behind the piece.

Discuss how to turn a passion into a career.

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- What clues can you find in the story to infer what happened to Dale's grandma? Use details from the text to explain your answer.
- How does Dale feel about finding a job? What does his attitude reveal about what is important to him?
- In what ways did Dale's grandma inspire or influence his choice of career? Provide specific examples from the story.
- How did Mr. Ruffins react to Dale's project idea? What actions did he take to show his support or concerns?
- What creative solution did Dale come up with to deal with the budget cuts? How did it help?
- What steps did Dale take to learn more about starting an art club? What challenges or successes did he face?
- How did the art club come up with a plan to earn money? What made their idea effective or unique?
- What new insight did Dale gain about his comics? How did this discovery impact him or the people around him?
- How did Mackenzie's mom's opinion of the art club change over time? What caused her to see things differently?
- What specific things did Grandpa do to show his support for Dale? How did his actions help Dale achieve his goals?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- What lessons can we learn from Dale?
- Utilize RIF's Influences on a Character to determine the influences on Dale.
- **Writing Activity:** How does Dale prove that an artist is an acceptable career?
- **Character Analysis:** What type of person is Dale? Use evidence from the text to support his characteristics.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.