

## Trying New Things: 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

**Themes:** New Experiences, Bravery, Hobbies

**Book Brief:** This guide is designed for use with books about trying new things at the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

**Content Connections:** ELA, Health, Social Studies, Art, PE, Music

### Time To Read!

**Before we read, let's look at...**

**The Cover:** Based on the cover, what new things are the characters in the book trying? How does the cover illustration help you to understand how the characters might be feeling about this?

**Prior Knowledge:** Think about a time when you tried something new. How did it go? What did you learn from the experience?

**Vocabulary:** Identify 8-10 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

**Purpose for Reading:** It's important to be able to identify the central message, lesson, or moral of a story. As we read, think about what that might be.

### While We Read

**Monitoring Comprehension**

- Summarize what happens in this book.
- What new thing does the main character want to try? How does the main character feel about trying the new thing? Would you feel the same or different?
- Describe how this book is organized, using terms like chapter and scene. How does the author use each chapter or scene to build the story? In other words, think about what information we need to have from earlier parts of the story to understand later parts of the story.
- If this book includes illustrations, describe how they contribute to your understanding of such elements as theme, main idea, and/or character.

### Let's Think About

**Our Purpose:** What is the central message, lesson, or moral of this story?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Make "Trying New Things" collages. Provide students with construction paper or poster board, glue, scissors, and old magazines. Have students identify, cut out, and make collages with pictures of things they would like to try. When they are finished, discuss what they learned from the book about trying new things and how they can use that knowledge as they try some of the things on their collages.