

Wings

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Responsibility, Diversity, Friendship

Grade Level: 1st to 3rd grade

Book Brief: A boy's wings make him a target for school bullies.

Author and Illustrator:
Christopher Myers

Content Connections:
Art



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have your students look at the cover carefully. What do they notice about the artwork? See if they can tell it's a collage. Point out that there's only one name on the cover, which means Christopher Myers wrote and illustrated the book.

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk through the book. Ask students to predict what the story is about based on the pictures. Why do they think Myers used collages? Why did he sometimes use unrealistic colors?

Prior Knowledge: Ask if any students are familiar with the Greek myth of Icarus and Daedalus. If not, give a brief synopsis. Explain that this story is about a boy named Ikarus. Ask the students to think about ways Icarus and Ikarus are alike and different while you read.

Vocabulary: neighborhood, gawk, snickered, swirling, exploded

Purpose for Reading: Set the following purpose: "As we read today, I want you to think about why the other children at Ikarus's school bullied him. Why didn't they like his wings?"

WHILE WE READ



MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What did the other students whisper about?
- ◆ What problem did the teacher have with Ikarus?

- ◆ How did the students react when Ikarus flew on the playground? How would you react if someone flew on the playground?
- ◆ How did Ikarus react?
- ◆ Why did the narrator stand up for Ikarus?
- ◆ What would you have done?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: "Why didn't the children like Ikarus's wings? Did they have a good reason?" Have the students find examples in the text that support their answers.

Extending Our Thinking: Ask open-ended questions like these: "How do you think Ikarus felt? What makes you think so?" "Who is responsible for stopping bullies?" "What are some ways to stop bullying?" "Have you ever been made fun of? How did it make you feel? Have you ever made fun of anyone else? How did that make you feel?" "Why is the title *Wings*?"

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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