



Study Guide

CONTENTS:

TEKS CORRELATIONS

VOCABULARY LIST

LITERARY ELEMENTS

4 DIMENSIONS EXPLANATION

4 DIMENSIONAL QUESTIONS

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

SCR PROMPTS

ECR PROMPTS

Reading Comprehension Details

Setting: Timeframe is current day. Broad setting is a ranch and a school lunchroom. Specific setting is the inside of a truck.

Point of View: Third-person limited omniscient **Word Count:** 903 **Challenge:** Protagonist versus self **Resolve:** Action

Characterization: The protagonist is a girl (no age identified) who learns life lessons during her time at the ranch. The secondary characters are her daddy, her friend, and a ranch owner. **Archetype:** wise, adventurous, young farm girl

The problem/conflict: Stella is worried about how her friend is acting at lunch because she wasn't nice the previous day.

The solution/resolution: Stella's daddy tells her a story which gives her the courage to talk to her friend.

Literary Devices: Simile, metaphor, rule of three, imagery, and symbolism

Author's Perspective: The author is an educator who lives on a ranch and has a strong desire to share those two passions.

Author's Purpose: The author wants the reader to learn you should look deeper into something if you don't understand it.

Plotline: This book contains a linear plotline of problem/solution and conflict/resolution.

Change/Growth: Stella experiences self-growth as she hears the story of the ranch name and realizes that there's more to her friend's actions than meets the eye. She gathers the strength to talk to her friend by twirling the nickel around.

Theme/Message: The author believes that everyone has a unique perspective - things aren't always as they seem. The author believes that it is important to see others' points of view. The author believes that everyone's viewpoints are valuable.

Theme/Short: Perspective **Mood:** Calm, happy **Tone:** Encouraging

Textual Evidence Tangible Item used for Recognizing Important Details: A coin, specifically a nickel

Specialized Vocabulary

majestic, interesting, ginormous, grinned, colossal, intrigued, point-of-view, mind was racing, concentrating, explanation

Teach through Literature - Change the World!

Turning the TEKS into Classroom Discussion Questions (Whole/Small Group - General)

(6) Comprehension Skills:

- 6A – Why did you choose this book? Would you like to share it with others?
- 6B – What do you know about ranches? What are some animals you might see on a ranch?
- 6C – What do you think is the name of the ranch? Why do you think the ranch is called Buffalo Nickel Ranch?
- 6D – Close your eyes and picture all the animals Stella sees on the ranch.
- 6E – Have any of you ever been to a ranch? Have any of you pet any of the animals mentioned in the story?
- 6F – What happened between Stella and her friend at lunch? Why did the owner name his ranch after a coin?
- 6G – What are some of the details that show you that Stella and her daddy have a good relationship?
- 6H – Think of something special to you. How could you turn that into a name for your own ranch?
- 6I – Who can annotate/draw/create a list of the most important details from this book?



(7) Response Skills:

- 7A – What do you love the most about animals? What is your favorite animal?
- 7B – What is the author hoping that you understand after reading this book?
- 7C – Can you find some sentences that show you that the author hopes you learn something new?
- 7D – Find your favorite page. Share in your own words what the author is saying on that page.
- 7E – In five pictures/words/sentences, can you annotate/create notes that show what happened in this book?
- 7F – Find a word that you have never seen before. Use it in a sentence keeping the context the same as it is used in the book.
- 7G – What are three of the most important details/sentences within this text? Why are they important?

(8) Multiple Genres (Literary Elements):

- 8A – What is a topic that is discussed over and over throughout this story? What is the theme of this book?
- 8B – Describe the relationship between Stella and her Daddy. Describe the relationship between Stella and her best friend. Describe the relationship between Stella's daddy and the ranch owner.
- 8C – Discuss a challenge/conflict that occurs in the book. What are the biggest events of the story? How were the challenges/conflicts handled/resolved? How did one of the characters grow/change?
- 8D – What is the primary setting of this story? What is the secondary setting of this story? Does the setting affect the storyline/plot? If so, in what ways?

(9) Multiple Genres (Genre Specific Characteristics):

- 9Di – What is the central idea of this book? Can you locate details/sentences/evidence that support this central idea?
- 9Diii – Can you find the organizational pattern of problem and solution in this text? Where can they be found?

(10) Author's Purpose and Craft:

- 10A – Why did the author write this book? What does she want you to learn from her book?
- 10B – What is the text structure of this story? How does it unfold? Does this pattern help achieve the author's purpose?
- 10C – How do the illustrations help develop the story? How do the pictures help reveal the name of the ranch?
- 10D – This author uses imagery to help you know what the ranch looks like. Can you find evidence of imagery?
- 10E – What point of view is used within this book? Which literary devices can be found throughout this story?
- 10F – How do literary devices and word choice help build the voice of this book? Can you provide some specific examples?
- 10G – Where can you observe the use of anecdote within this book? Can you find examples of stereotyping within the illustrations within this book? Where can you observe the use of circular reasoning? Where can the use of juxtaposition be observed?

(11-12) Composition – Planning and Constructing:

- SCR: What is the most likely reason the author wrote this book? Support your answer with evidence from the book.
- SCR: Why does Stella act sad in the truck with her dad? Support your answer with evidence from the book.
- ECR (Personal Narrative): What is your favorite character in this book and why?
- ECR (Informational): Explain how the author uses the setting to help develop the theme of this book. Support your answer with evidence from the book.
- ECR (Argumentative): Using the book, Buffalo Nickel Ranch, write about whether people should try to see alternate viewpoints. Support your answer with evidence from the book.
- ECR (Correspondence): Write a thank you letter from Stella to the ranch owner. Be sure to include details from the book.

4 Dimensions of Reading Comprehension

1. **What one has been TAUGHT** to recognize or use
2. **What one can TAP** as textual evidence to use as support
3. **What one must THINK** to answer the **WHY**
4. **What one must TOGGLE** while answering a multifaceted question

When students are addressing **Dimensions 1 and 2**, they will appear in **reading comprehension multi-type questions**. **Dimension 3 content** can be used as **reading comprehension** or as **Short Constructed Response prompts**. If they are used as SCR prompts, then the student will need to support their answer with evidence from the selection provided. **Dimension 4 content will most likely appear as an Extended Constructed Response writing prompt**. Supporting textual evidence will be necessary to fully construct a complete response/essay.

4 Dimensional Reading Comprehension Questions (Independent - Assessment Specific)

Set #1-

1. What is the theme of this selection?
2. What two pieces of evidence can be found to support the theme of this selection?
3. Why does the author include the line, "See Stella, things aren't always as they seem, but they can always be understood."? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)
4. How does the author use characterization to build the theme? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)

Set #2-

1. What is the primary setting of this selection?
2. Which two pieces of evidence can be found to support the setting of this selection?
3. What can be inferred about why the author includes the challenge of earning a quarter? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)
4. How does the author use the two settings to establish the theme? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)

Set #3-

1. Which point of view does the author use in this selection?
2. Which two sentences support the point of view of this selection?
3. What is the most likely reason Stella twirls the nickel in her pocket? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)
4. Explain how the growth of Stella influences the overall theme? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)

Set 4-

1. Which literary device is used twice as Stella's daddy asks her to make guesses?
2. What evidence can be found to support your answer to question 1?
3. What is the most likely reason Stella's daddy tells her the story about the name of the ranch? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)
4. In what ways does Stella's growth help progress the plot? (Provide textual evidence to support your answer.)

Beyond the Book!

Additional Discussion Question Path to Make it Personal

What do you think was happening between Stella and her friend at lunch?

What are some things you have misunderstood in the past?

How did you resolve the misunderstanding?

Why was Stella quiet and concentrating in the truck with her dad? How do you act when you are upset?

Will understanding the theme of this book help you make decisions in the future?

AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.COM AND AT BNRBOOKS.COM

Buffalo Nickel Ranch is the first book in a series with the same name. Stella, a girl longing for adventure and animals in her life, admires the ranch with giant longhorns she passes going to school each day. Before she can enjoy the animals this particular morning, she must first figure out what is going on with her best friend. As she learns from the name of the ranch - things aren't always as they seem!



Meet the Author

Randi Whitney has spent 25 years sharing with educators how to think like an author. Now she becomes one.

Already an esteemed author of a Language Arts educational curriculum, Teach BIG, and the owner of an early childhood preschool, Strawberry Fields, Randi Whitney expands her repertoire by adding children's book author to her list of accomplishments.



Meet the Illustrator

Rylie Stevenson has always had a love for all things creative and an even bigger passion for education. Her creativity for drawing and illustration have been evident in her classroom for over a decade and now bring the adventures of Stella to life across the BNR series.

Educators and parents admire the seamless fabric of this story as it balances abstract literary elements of growth, relationships, and theme with concrete concepts such as a linear plotline, characterization, setting, and the senses. Be ready to observe literary devices such as similes, metaphors, rule of three, symbolism, and imagery. Vocabulary abounds as Randi Whitney exposes students to a myriad of new words and phrases. Enjoy the accompanying study guide which delivers the trademarked reading comprehension approach of the 4 Dimensions of Understanding and Analysis in the classroom and throughout life.

Enjoy other books by this dynamic author/
illustrator duo:

I Love Buggy Rides
Who Let the Goat Out?
The Eyes Have It
Three Legs Are Better than Four
The Messes We Make
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The Community Can
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