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Joey Pigza Loses Control Novel Study Curriculum Map

Students will enjoy reading about the continuing adventures and experiences of Joey Pigza, a young boy who suffers from ADD, Attention Deficit-Hyperactive Disorder.

Joey Pigza's life is turned upside down when his mother allows him to spend a few weeks in a nearby city with his estranged father and grandmother. Joey has an idealized image of his father, and resents his mother's smothering ways, however when he moves in with his dad, Joey quickly discovers the man is actually very much like him in many respects. Carter Pigza is impulsive and has great difficulty controlling his actions and tongue.

During Joey's visit, his father convinces him to stop wearing the medicated patch which controls his erratic behavior. Joey's behavior and unhappiness spiral out of control. The climax of the novel occurs during a championship baseball game, when Joey, unable to control his frustration has a meltdown on the mound. His mother is called for and whisks him home. Joey finally realizes that his mother has only his best interest in mind and now has a more realistic picture of his father.

Chapter-by-chapter questions will strengthen students' reading comprehension and assist them in developing critical thinking and emotional development.

Overall Expectations:

The students will:

- learn about: character development/growth, self-acceptance, living with the shortcomings of others (i.e., one's parents), family relationships, the dangers of smoking and alcohol.
- relate events and the feelings of characters found in the novel to their own lives and experiences.
- learn from a first person perspective the challenges of being an individual with special needs (ADHD - Attention-Deficit, Hyperactive Disorder).

- appreciate that the growth of one's character is often the result of trials that come into one's life.
- learn the importance of dealing with adversity and developing perseverance in the face of difficult experiences.
- state their own interpretation of a written work, using evidence from the novel and from their own knowledge and experience.

Introduction includes:

- Learning Expectations and Skill List
- Teacher Suggestions
- Synopsis and Author Biography
- Student Checklist
- Answer Key

Chapter Questions

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JOEY WAS COMING TO GET ME AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING

"THAT OLD



ABOUT IT..."

JOEY FIGZA LOSES CONTROL

by Jack Gantos



Name: _____

JOEY WAS COMING TO GET ME AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING

"THAT OLD



ABOUT IT..."

BEFORE YOU READ THE CHAPTER:

Chapter 1

Joey Pigza's parents are separated. Usually he lives with his mother, but as the novel opens we learn that he is to spend the next six weeks with his dad – a man he doesn't know all that well. Imagine you are Joey for a moment and describe what you think might be going through his mind as he and his mother drive to the town where his father lives.

VOCABULARY:

Part A:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

snout
relationship

clamped
whimper

expire
notion

sprouted
seam

pursed
weepy

1. Tim really _____ up over the summer.
2. I'd better get down to the government office, my license is about to _____.
3. Wherever did you get the _____ we were going to Ireland this summer?
4. Jill has a wonderful _____ with her grandmother.
5. Sonja _____ her lips and squinched her eyes in response to the question.
6. When I'm tired I tend to get very emotional and _____.
7. They would never have known the puppy was in the glove compartment if they hadn't heard it _____.

JOEY WAS COMING TO GET ME AND I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING

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ABOUT IT..."

8. When they moved to the city his parents really _____ down on him.
9. A dog has a _____, a person has a nose.
10. My aunt can't get over how new pants, that are sold in clothing stores, don't have a _____.

QUESTIONS:

1. As the chapter opens, where is Joey going and why?

2. Describe the circumstances that caused Pablo to get ill.

3. What does the expression "paper covers rock" mean?

4. How would you describe Joey's mother's driving skills? Please offer proof for your opinion.

5. What did Joey end up doing with Pablo after the dog became ill? What is your opinion of Joey's decision?



6. What two changes at school made it possible for Joey to sit still for longer periods?

7. As the chapter closes we are left wondering what other things Joey's mother might have said in response to Joey's statement about wanting his father to love him as much as Joey loves him. Speculate on what she might have held back in saying to Joey.

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES:

The author uses a number of interesting expressions in this chapter. Put the following expressions in more understandable words. You might have to check the context before answering.

1. "was a wake-up call for me" _____

2. "having everything I wanted blow up in my face" _____

3. "made me hang my head" _____

4. "he can be ... wired like you" _____

EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

Pablo is a Chihuahua (pronounced Chi-wa-wa) breed of dog. Did you know that the Chihuahua is the smallest breed of dog in the world and is named after the state of Chihuahua in Mexico?

Investigate this breed further and discover three additional facts about this little breed of dog.
