

RAMONA AND HER FATHER

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Synopsis

Ramona is excited about everything, especially Christmas, even though it is only September. This all changes when her father loses his job. Her large list of wants becomes smaller, as she wants a happy family, foremost. But father isn't feeling very happy. He doesn't have a job and Ramona and her sister are trying to get him to stop smoking. One day when Ramona arrives home after school, her father isn't home and she is afraid that she has caused him to run away from home. While her father is out of work Ramona's mother takes a job to help out. She is so busy she doesn't have time to make Ramona's costume for the Christmas play at church. Ramona refuses to be a sheep in pajamas covered with little rabbits until some girls paint a black nose on her and she thinks no one will recognize her. Ramona discovers in this story that families quarrel sometimes. But it doesn't mean that they don't like each other.

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LESSON 1

Chapter 1

1. In what time of year does the story begin?

2. What were Beezus and Ramona hoping would happen when their father came home?

3. Ramona thought her parents whispering usually meant:
 - A. There was some kind of problem
 - B. Their voices were hoarse
 - C. Her dad always like to whisper

4. How do you think Ramona felt about her father losing his job?

5. What does Ramona change on her Christmas list at the end of Chapter 1?

6. What would you write down on a list as a present for your family if you couldn't spend any money?

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LESSON 2

Chapter 2

1. Why did Ramona suddenly become interested in commercials?

2. What made Ramona go up to her teacher and tell her that her pantyhose were wrinkled like an elephant's legs?
 - A. Ramona didn't like her teacher
 - B. Ramona's favorite animal was an elephant
 - C. She was practicing to be in a commercial

3. Circle the one word that people usually use to describe Ramona
Weird Impatient Curious Gloomy

4. What is one word that would describe you? Explain why you chose the word.

5. How did Ramona get her hair so full of tangles?

6. What do you think Mr. Quimby meant that money is handy, but it isn't everything?

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LESSON 3

Chapter 3 - 4

1. What are tommy-toes?
2. Why did Mr. Quimby bring up Murphy's Law? (Murphy's Law: anything that can go wrong will.)
 - A. Because so many things had gone wrong lately.
 - B. Murphy is a friend of the family and he makes laws.
 - C. Mr. Quimby is a lawyer and talks like a lawyer.
3. Why does Mr. Quimby suggest they might have to get rid of Picky-Picky?
4. Does Ramona think the REVIEW in school is difficult or easy? Explain why you think that including examples from the story.
5. Are school reviews difficult or easy for? Explain your answer.
6. Ramona came home from school and the house was empty. Do you like your house best when it is full of people or empty? Explain your answer.

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LESSON 4

Chapter 5 - 6

1. Why did Beezus need to interview Mrs. Swink?

2. What was Ramona doing that was embarrassing to her family?

3. Ramona suggested that they add a new part to the Christmas program.
What was it?

4. Why does Ramona think her father is so grouchy?

5. What is one thing Ramona's family does that shows they are happy to be a family?

6. List two things you like about your family.

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LESSON 5

Chapter 7

1. Ramona doesn't like her sheep costume. What is the matter with her costume?
2. Ramona was pouting until three girls came along. What did they do that changed Ramona's mind?
3. How did Ramona feel about Beezus during the play while she was watching her?
4. Why is Ramona so happy in the end?
5. Describe a time when you were doing something with your family that made you happy.
6. Choose something from the story that Ramona's family does and tell how it is the same or different than how your family does things.

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ANSWER KEY

LESSON 1

1. The story begins in September.
2. Beezus and Ramona hoped when their father came home they would go out to dinner.
3. A
4. Answers will vary.
5. Ramona changes her Christmas list to read happy family.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 2

1. Ramona's sudden interest in commercials was due to the fact she thought she could earn millions of dollars.
2. C
3. IMPATIENT should be circled
4. Answers will vary.
5. Ramona got her hair all tangled when she put a crown of burrs on her head.
6. Answers may vary. Mr. Quimby means that even though money is nice, it isn't everything because people and family are more important.

LESSON 3

1. Tommy-toes are stewed tomatoes.
2. A
3. They might have to get rid of Picky-Picky if the cat won't eat the cheaper brand of cat food.
4. Ramona thinks review in school is easy.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. Beezus need to interview Mrs. Swink for her creative writing assignment.
2. Ramona was embarrassing her family by clanking around the neighborhood on stilts singing "Ninety-nine Bottles of Bear on the Wall."
3. Ramona wants them to add the part of a sheep to the Christmas play.
4. Ramona thinks her father is so grouchy because he has quit smoking and lost his job.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

LESSON 5

1. Ramona doesn't like her sheep costume because it is made out of old pajamas.
2. The three girls painted Ramona's nose black and that made her feel better.
3. Ramona felt proud of Beezus during the play.
4. Ramona is happy in the end as she realizes she does have a happy family.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.