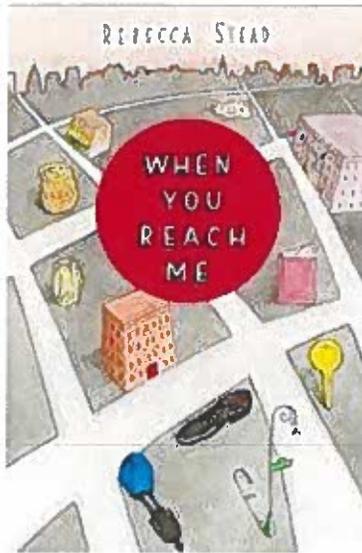


Summer Reading 2025

Jump into some books this summer!

Please read the book *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead



After you finish reading, complete the “Detective Work” packet.

Be sure to take your time reading and completing the work. This book has lots of twists and turns!

This will be your first grade in Reading for Trimester 1 so make sure to do your best!

Please e-mail me if you have any questions!

amanzo@rcmbs.org

Happy Reading!

Character Interview Activity:

First, choose a second book to read over the summer. Make sure it is something you're really interested in reading.

For this book project, you will act as a newspaper reporter. As the reporter, your task is to find out everything you can about one of the major characters in the novel.

Task:

- Think of and type out ten (10) questions that you would ask a character from the novel.
- Next, you will type out the answers to the questions from the point of view of your chosen character. Your character's replies to each question should be a nice paragraph. (5-7 sentences)
- You can type everything on a Google Doc!

Interview question starter ideas:

"Describe....."

"What might happen if....."

"What solution would you suggest for....."

"What do you think about....."

"How do you decide about....."

"How did you feel about....."



Detective work

WHEN YOU REACH ME

By Rebecca Stead

 Sharp sleuthing skills are a must for this mystery! Miranda finds four mysterious notes. Keep track of key clues here, and refer back as you read.



THE FIRST NOTE

When does Miranda find it? _____

Where does she discover it? _____

What does the note writer claim to be coming to do? _____

What two favors are asked of Miranda? 1. _____

2. _____

Other interesting details: _____

THE SECOND NOTE

When does Miranda find it? _____

Where does she discover it? _____

What does the note writer say Miranda's letter must do? _____

When does she have to start the letter, and why? _____

What is she asked not to do? _____

Other details: _____



THE THIRD NOTE

When does Miranda find it? _____

Where does she discover it? _____

What three things are offered to Miranda as "proof"? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

What odd fact is provided in the P.S.? _____

Do you remember this subject being mentioned before by Miranda? When? _____

THE LAST NOTE

When does Miranda find it? _____

Where does she discover it? _____

What instructions are given to Miranda? _____

Where is she told to deliver her letter? _____

What other clues are included at the end of the note? _____



People Aren't Always ... What They Seem

WHEN YOU REACH ME
By Rebecca Stead



Many characters in this book seem to be one way at first, but turn out to be completely different by the end.

Track the characters below through the book and watch how they change!

Character	How is this character described when first introduced? How does he/she act?	What unexpected qualities does the character show later in the story?	By the end, how would you describe this character?
The Laughing Man (AKA "Quacker" and "Kicker")			
Julia ("Swiss Miss")			
Marcus ("the boy in the green army coat")			



Discussion Questions

WHEN YOU REACH ME

By Rebecca Stead



This book is the kind I call **chewy**. You know, the kind of book that gives your mind a lot to "chew on," to think about, to digest? (My favorite kind!)

BONUS!

For those of you who (as Miranda says) like to "lift the veil," check out the journaling ideas at the end!

1. Have you read a book that is narrated "out of order" before? Many stories are told in order of when things happened (chronological order), but this one flips around in time.

What clues helped you understand the story was being told out of order? Why do you think the author wrote the story this way?

(Hint: Did it feel like you were traveling back and forth in time?)

2. Remember this line from the first chapter?

"And then there's the date she's supposed to show up, scrawled in blue pen on a line at the bottom of the card: April 27, 1979. Just like you said."

Who is Miranda talking to as she tells this story? When did you first figure out she wasn't talking to you, the reader?

Discussion Questions

WHEN YOU REACH ME

By Rebecca Stead



3. Miranda is obsessed with a particular book, which she reads over and over again. What is the book? Why do you think she so fascinated with it?

4. *“Except those ladies lied, at the beginning of the book...they promise that girl that they’ll have her back home five minutes before she left. But they don’t.”*

How does Miranda feel when Marcus says this about her book at the dentist’s?

Marcus goes on to explain that if the characters in *A Wrinkle of Time* had really gotten back 5 minutes before they left, then they would have seen themselves return from the future.

How does Miranda react?

What do you think? Do you see what Marcus is saying?

5. When Sal doesn’t want to hang out with Miranda anymore, she makes friends with Annemarie. After seeing Annemarie’s home, Miranda notices her apartment *“as if it’s the first time.”* Why? What is she ashamed about?

Discussion Questions

WHEN YOU REACH ME

By Rebecca Stead



6. Miranda's first memory of disliking Julia is from second grade, when Julia complained *"there was no 'café au lait'-colored construction paper for her skin, or 'sixty-percent-cacao-chocolate' color for her eyes."*

Later, however, Miranda watches Julia watching Annemarie, and sees *"eyes that were 'sixty-percent-cacao-chocolate', a face that was café au lait', and an expression so familiar..."*

What changes Miranda's feelings toward Julia? What are some things she discovers she has in common with Julia?

7. At the sandwich shop, after Jimmy's bank of \$2 bills is stolen, Miranda learns that Jimmy has misinterpreted her nickname for Julia ("Swiss Miss").

Why does Jimmy throw Julia out of his shop?

Have you ever been blamed for something simply because of your appearance?

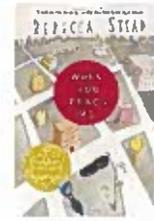
Have you seen this happen to others?

Discussion Questions

WHEN YOU REACH ME

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8. Marcus tells Miranda that *"Einstein says common sense is just habit of thought. It's how we're used to thinking about things, but a lot of the time it just gets in the way."*



How does Miranda's habit of thinking get in the way of noticing Sal's desire to take a break from their friendship? Why doesn't she pick up on his hints? What does Sal understand before Miranda does?

9. After Miranda finds the third note, she talks to Marcus about time travel. Marcus says if it takes her 50 years to build a time machine, and she doesn't time travel back to 1978 until she's 62, the ticket guy at the movie theater would remember a 62 year old woman, not Miranda as she looks now.

How is this important in helping Miranda figure things out in the end?

10. Watching her mom compete in "The \$20,000 Pyramid" game show, Miranda experiences something *"like an invisible hand reaching out and snatching away [her] veil."*

What happens? Have you ever experienced this, when everything becomes clear?
