

Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

Tangerine

Edward Bloor

ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why do Paul and his family move?

2. How has Tangerine County changed over the years?

3. How do Paul and his family adjust to living in Lake Windsor Downs?

4. How does Paul feel about being legally blind?

5. How does Paul feel about his brother, Erik?

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

- Where are Paul and his family moving to at the beginning of the book?
 - Lake Windsor Downs in Tangerine County, Florida
 - Houston, Texas
 - Villas at Versailles in Tallahassee, Florida
- Who is Old Charley Burns?
 - president of the Homeowners' Association
 - Erik's new football coach
 - Mr. Fisher's new boss
- What is the mysterious fire that Paul and his mother discover?
 - a brush fire
 - a muck fire
 - a fire caused by a lightning strike
- What position does Erik play in football?
 - place kicker
 - quarterback
 - running back
- What are three drawbacks that Paul and his mother learn about the middle school?
 - It doesn't have a soccer team, a gym, or a cafeteria.
 - It doesn't have an auditorium, a soccer team, or indoor classrooms for seventh and eighth graders.
 - It doesn't have a gym, an auditorium, or indoor classrooms for seventh and eighth graders.
- What position does Paul play in soccer?
 - fullback
 - goalie
 - center
- How does Paul think he became legally blind?
 - He stared at a solar eclipse for too long.
 - Someone hit him with a metal bat.
 - He played in an abandoned refrigerator.
- What doesn't Erik do that most people his age do?
 - He doesn't look for a college to go to.
 - He doesn't try to get a girlfriend.
 - He doesn't drive.
- Who is the coach of Paul's soccer team?
 - Mr. Walski
 - Coach Warner
 - Mr. Murrow
- What do the kids on the soccer team nickname Paul?
 - Cola Boy
 - Mars
 - Eclipse Boy

Deepen Your Understanding

Paul is the *protagonist*, or the main character, in *Tangerine*. His brother, Erik, is the *antagonist*, or the character who opposes the main character. In many cases, the protagonist is the character the reader is rooting for, and the antagonist is the character the reader is rooting against. Do you think that this is how Edward Bloor wants us to see Paul and Erik? What are some clues in the text that indicate that Bloor wants us to root for Paul? What are some clues that he wants us to root against Erik?

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

- How does Mike Costello die?
 - He runs headfirst into the goal post.
 - He is struck by lightning at football practice.
 - He is run over by Arthur's Land Cruiser.
- How does Paul's mother suggest they avoid lightning strikes at football practice?
 - They move practice to 6:30 in the morning.
 - They stop practicing when there is a storm coming.
 - They practice in the gym.
- How does Paul react to Coach Walski's words?
 - He runs away from him and hides.
 - He screams at the coach and the other kids on the team.
 - He yells and then cries.
- Who is Paul happy to see at the carnival?
 - Cara Clifton
 - Kerri Gardner
 - Joey Costello
- What is Paul so interested in at the carnival?
 - the Wonders of the World exhibit
 - the double Ferris wheel
 - the Octopus
- Who tells Coach Walski, Mrs. Gates, and Mr. Murrow about the Tangerine Middle soccer boys being at the Wonders of the World exhibit?
 - Paul
 - Joey
 - Kerri and Cara
- What disaster happens at Paul's school out by the portables?
 - an earthquake
 - a tornado
 - a sinkhole
- Who cleans the mud off Paul's glasses?
 - Tommy
 - Gino
 - Joey
- Who calls Paul's family to let them know that the news about the sinkhole is on CNN?
 - Paul's grandparents
 - the Costellos
 - Mr. Donnelly
- What are the options for the seventh graders for school now that the portables have been destroyed?
 - They can go to school at a local private school, or they can squeeze into the high school.
 - They can go to the middle school with the sixth graders or to Tangerine Middle School for the rest of the term.
 - They can go to a local private school, or they can go to Tangerine Middle School for the rest of the term.

Deepen Your Understanding

In this section, Paul learns that he is ineligible (not allowed) to play soccer for Lake Windsor Middle because of his IEP (Individualized Education Plan). He is frustrated because he knows that even though he is legally blind, he can still play soccer. He is one of the best players on the team. On the other hand, a rule is a rule, and there are reasons for it. Make a list of pros and cons stating why you think Paul should or should not be part of the soccer team.

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

- Who is Paul's escort on his first and second day at Tangerine Middle School?
 - Shandra
 - Theresa
 - Maya
- What is Paul's new nickname on the soccer team?
 - Tuna Man
 - Fishing Pole
 - Fisher Man
- What is Paul's jersey number on the soccer team?
 - 10
 - 1
 - 5
- At Tangerine Middle's first soccer game of the season, what do the Palmetto fans throw at the Tangerine players?
 - acorns
 - tangerines
 - pinecones
- What is Erik's football number?
 - 10
 - 1
 - 5
- Who takes Victor to the emergency room during their second soccer game?
 - Tino's father
 - Paul's mother
 - Mr. Donnelly
- What is Joey's new nickname on the soccer team?
 - Starkist
 - Hook Boy
 - Charlie the Tuna
- Why does Paul's mother contact Mr. Donnelly?
 - His landscaping doesn't meet the codes of the Architectural Committee.
 - She thinks he will want to write a story about Shandra and Maya.
 - She wants him to know about Victor's injury.
- What is the broad topic of Paul's cross-curricular project?
 - Florida lakes
 - Florida agriculture
 - Florida citrus fruits
- What shocking news does Paul learn from Joey in science class?
 - Joey turned in his uniform and quit the soccer team.
 - Lightning struck Mr. Donnelly's house for the fourth time.
 - Joey broke Paul's glasses.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

prominence—the quality of standing out
saturating—treating something to the point where no more can be absorbed, dissolved, or retained
gravely—in a serious or dignified manner
liable—obligated according to law or equity; responsible
pursue—to follow up or proceed with

dilapidated—decayed, deteriorated, or fallen into partial ruin, especially through neglect or misuse
congregated—collected into a group or a crowd; assembled
archenemy—a principal foe
retaliate—to repay; to get revenge
vehemently—in a deeply felt or impassioned manner

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

An **alcove** is a small recessed section of a room.

Termites are small insects that feed on wood.

Encephalitis is an inflammation of the brain.

Insecticides and **pesticides** are agents used to kill insects and pests, such as termites and mice. An **exterminator** is a person who would use these agents to kill off such insects and pests. **Orkin** is the name of an exterminating company.

Cattails are tall, reedy marsh plants that are green on the bottom and have brown furry stalks on top.

Stucco is a fine plaster used to decorate walls. It is also used as an exterior coating for buildings.

Kumquats are any type of yellowish-orange citrus fruit with a spongy rind. Kumquats are usually used for preserves.

Skeeters refer to mosquitoes.

Horticulture is the science of raising fruits, vegetables, flowers, or ornamental plants.