



Wave Warrior

Lesley Choyce

Interest level: grade 7 and up

Reading level: 3.4

978-1-55143-647-0 PB

978-1-55143-649-4 LIB

AR Quiz # 114180

Book Summary

Ben is definitely not looking forward to a summer of doing “nothing,” but his father’s idea, working in a factory making cardboard boxes, horrifies him. So Ben decides to face and overcome his fear and learn to surf. His first attempt is a miserable failure resulting in a bloody nose. But with the help of Tara, his soon to be first love, and Ray, an old surfer, Ben learns to conquer his fear and surf with the best of them. As Ben experiences love and loss for the first time, he begins to understand life just a little bit better.

Prereading Idea

Ask students to investigate the history and culture of surfing, including the types of boards used and surfing locations. Ask each student to write three to four facts about surfing on 3 x 5 cards. Have students share and post their surfing facts.

Connecting to the World—Writing and Research Ideas

Like skateboarding, music and running, surfing is its own subculture. Discuss with students other similar subcultures of our society. Ask students to work with a partner to select and to research all aspects of that culture. Have students prepare and present the information to the class using a PowerPoint presentation.

Ben makes a journey of personal discovery during the summer. Ask students to keep a diary of Ben's life, writing about his feelings and emotions as he deals with all life throws at him over the course of the summer. Then in small groups ask students to share the entries.

Connecting to the Text—Elements of the Novel

Theme

The theme of a story is the main idea or central purpose of the story. How does the following quote express the theme of *Wave Warrior*? "To live with fear and not be afraid is the final test of maturity." Discuss with students how this theme relates to Ben and his experiences with surfing and relationships. Have students search books of quotations or other sources to find a quotation that relates to their own personal life story. Have students copy the theme and write a paragraph explaining the connection to their life events. Post the thematic quotations and explanations around the room.

Imagery

Authors use imagery to paint pictures with words so that the reader can visualize what is occurring in the book. On pages 17–22, Ben meets Mickey D and Ray for the first time, and he watches Ray surf and listens to his stories. Ask students to select a section of descriptive writing and to write a poem using found phrases in the writing. Have students illustrate their poems and share them with the class.

Characterization

Reality television shows abound in which characters must be competitive, survive obstacles, and instinctively know how to interact with other people. Ask students to select one of the major characters in the story and write a first person audition script for a reality show for that character. Have students identify the character's personality traits, their ability to interact with others, and their strengths and weaknesses. Students should find a photograph in a magazine to illustrate their character and present or post the script and photograph.

Connecting to the Students—Discussion Questions

1. After Ben is hit in the face with his surfboard, Tara tries to comfort him, but his response hurts her feelings (page 12). Why does Ben respond to Tara the way he does? Is Tara justified in her feelings?

2. Ben's father is proud of his job at the box factory, and he wants Ben to follow in his footsteps. Ben thought "working in a factory that made cardboard boxes sounded like a death sentence," (page 14). Why does he think working in the factory will be a death sentence? What actions does Ben take to ensure that he will not have to go to work in the factory for the summer?
3. When Ben sees Ray interviewed on an old documentary, Ray advises young surfers to, "Fight your inner demons. Be a warrior. Don't ever let the suckers get to you," (page 25). What does Ray mean by this advice? Does Ben understand what Ray is saying? What actions does Ben take to show the reader his level of understanding?
4. Why does Ray re-name the farm Nirvana Farm? What does Nirvana mean? Is the new name appropriate for the farm? Why or why not?
5. Ben is fearful of surfing. What initially motivates him to rent the board from Goofy? What or who motivates him to continue to try after he has repeatedly failed? What methods do others use to motivate Ben?
6. On page 44, Ben says, "Suddenly, something snapped inside me." What snapped? How does Ben change as a result of the "snap"?
7. What role do Ben's parents play in his maturing process? How do they help and/or hinder him?
8. How does Tara help Ben with his surfing? In what other areas does she help him?
9. What is "Warrior Mentality?" How do Ray, Tara and Ben exhibit this? Do the other surfers possess this quality?

Writer's Craft

Idioms

Goofy tells Ben, "Fall off a horse, you gotta get back on," (page 16). Discuss with students to research the origin and meaning of this idiom and explain why it is an appropriate idiom to use. Ask students to rewrite this idiom as a surfing idiom. Then, in groups of three, ask students to find other places in the book where a surfing idiom could be used to relate a life lesson. Ask students to write their original surfing idiom on a sentence strip and write a brief explanation of what their idiom means. Post the surfing idioms in the classroom.

Foreshadowing

When Ben meets Ray for the first time, Ray states that he has always wanted to come to Nova Scotia. He says, “Figured it was now or never,” (Page 19). This is the first clue of many the author uses to let the reader know that Ray is not well. With a partner, ask students to find and list other such clues. Then compile the list so that students can see how the author uses foreshadowing. Have students, with their partner, write a sixty second movie trailer for the book *Wave Warrior* that hints at what is to come by incorporating one of the examples of foreshadowing.

Author Biography

Lesley Choyce teaches part-time at Dalhousie University, runs Pottersfield Press and has written adult and young adult books, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. His YA novels center on a variety of topics and issues from the popular—skateboarding, surfing and rock bands—to the controversial—racism, environmental issues and organ transplants.