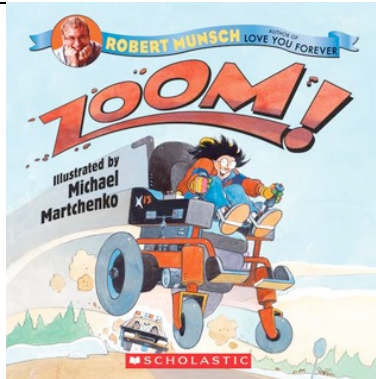


LESSON PLAN: ZOOM!

Written by Robert Munsch / Illustrated by Michael Martchenko



Objective:

- Students will be able to understand how wheelchairs can help people with disabilities become more independent.

New York State Learning Standards:

Pre-Kindergarten: 1-7, 9-11

Kindergarten: 1-7, 9-11

First Grade: 1-7, 9, 11

Second Grade: 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11

Materials:

Zoom, Drawing paper, crayons, and markers.

Vocabulary:

neighbor

hospital

doctor

gear

independent

police

ticket

wheelchair

Before Reading:

- Guide students with looking at the illustrations in the book and discuss how these make them feel.
- Tell them that the author and illustrator used humor in this book to create a specific mood for this story.

- Read the back of the book to students about the author and illustrator and ask the students why Munsch wrote this story for Laretta Reid and why they think the main character's name is Laretta. Also read the dedication at the beginning of the book.

Reading:

- Read the book aloud to the class and ask the following questions so that students can reflect and think critically about the story.
- Discuss the many details in the illustrations as the book is read (facial expressions, background pictures, etc.)

Discussion Questions:

Ask students the following questions so they can reflect and think critically about the story:

Pages 2-5:

Why did Laretta want a new wheelchair? Using the illustrations, describe what's wrong with her old one. Where do they go to get a new one?

Pages 6-10:

Why did Laretta refuse the first three wheelchairs after she tried them out?

Pages 12-13:

Why did Laretta choose the 92 speed wheelchair? What did her mother say? What did the lady from the store tell Laretta and her mother they could do?

Pages 14-17:

What did Laretta do with her wheelchair when she got home? What happened when she put it in twentieth gear? What did her brother tell her to do because she was driving the wheelchair so fast? Do you think this would be good advice in real life? What did Laretta like about this wheelchair?

Pages 18-19:

Why did the police stop Laretta? What did he give her? Do you think the author is being serious or funny when Laretta received a ticket? Would this really happen? Why or Why not? How did Laretta feel about getting a speeding ticket?

Pages 20-21:

How did Laretta's mother react to her getting a speeding ticket?

Pages 22-23:

What did Laretta's mother and father say about her wheelchair? What happened to Laretta's brother at dinner? Why were her parents yelling?

Pages 24-25:

Where is the family rushing off to? What happened to their car? How did Laretta help her brother?

Pages 26-27:

What happened when the police pulled up beside her? What did the doctors do to Laretta's brother at the hospital?

Pages 28-30:

What did Laretta's parents say when Laretta and her brother got home? Why does Laretta decide she doesn't want her wheelchair anymore? What is funny about the illustration of Laretta's brother on pages 27 and 29? What is Laretta driving on page 30? How do you feel about Laretta's choice?

Guided Practice:

- Have students draw a picture of a wheelchair that Laretta might want to buy.
- What color would it be? What size would it be? What would it look like? Guide them with providing the same kind of details that the illustrator, Michael Martchenko used in the book.
- Ask students to form groups and create an original story using their pictures of wheelchairs. Ask them to write sentences to go with their pictures and create a beginning, middle, and end for their story.
- Allow time for groups to share their stories with class.

The following may be appropriate for 2nd grade and up:

- Discuss how wheelchairs have changed throughout history? Review the "Evolution of Wheelchairs and Adaptive Devices" section on the Museum of disABILITY History website: <http://museumofdisability.org>.
- Selections from this website may be viewed by students online or copies of those pages may be printed for student use.

Closure:

- Compare this book with *Rolling Along* and discuss/list the similarities and differences between the two.

- Discuss how author Robert Munsch created characters and dialogue to tell a funny story about wheelchairs and how author Jamee Riggio Heelan told a story about Taylor to help us learn how using a wheelchair helped him get around faster.
- Have students vote for the favorite book between the two and tell why they chose it.