

The Skate Jam

by Susan Paris

Summary

Rina loves skateboarding and is practicing for a skate contest. She overcomes teasing from some other skaters and last-minute nerves to perform well at the jam – even managing to impress her older brother.

Features of the Text

- Realistic fiction
- First-person narrative
- Interaction between the characters
- Action and dialogue

Purpose

The Skate Jam can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- identifying the sequence of events;
- analyzing the theme;
- drawing conclusions from the text;
- identifying and analyzing characters' emotions.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Discuss the cover of the book and clarify the term “skate jam.” Ask the students to share their own experiences of skateboarding.

- *Where do you think this girl is?*
- *How do you think she could be feeling?*
- *What things would affect a skateboarder's performance in a skate jam?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 3.

- *Who is telling this story? How do you know?*
- *What have you learned about her?*

The students can now read to the end of page 5.

- *Why does Rina decide to go to the rec center?*
- *Why is she angry at her brother?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 9.

- *How does Gabe think his sister will do in the contest?*
- *What is Rina doing to prepare for the contest?*

The students can now read the rest of the book.

- *How did Rina feel about her performance in the contest?*
- *What do you think helped her to be successful?*

Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 25 to identify and analyze the characters' emotions
- make a poster to advertise the skate jam
- write a letter to Eric Diaz, asking for some tips.