

Movie Mania

by Rebecca Green

Summary

Jamar gets a video camera for his birthday and drives his family mad as he makes a documentary for his English class. He redeems himself though when he solves a mystery.

Features of the Text

- Narrative text with action and dialogue
- Told in the first person
- Subplot of missing objects
- Subject-specific vocabulary—*panning, shooting schedule, video diary, documentary, zooming, lens, editing, tripod, wrap up, DVD, launch, footage*

Purpose

Movie Mania can be used for the following purposes:

- making connections;
- exploring the structure of narrative.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Discuss the cover and title together.

- *What does mania mean? What might movie mania mean?*
- *What do you think the story will be about?*

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 61 to complete a timeline of events in the story
- write a resolution to the documentary storyline
- write a story or make a documentary of their own about being in 6th grade.

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4.

- *What do you know about the plot so far?*
- *A narrative usually has a problem. What could be the problem in this story?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 9 and share their ideas about the plot.

- *Why is filming his family not as easy as Jamar first imagined?*
- *Do you think Jamar will finish his project on time? Why do you think that?*
- *Have you ever tried to film your family or friends? How did they react? How do you feel when someone is filming you?*

Ask the students to read to the end of the story.

- *What words does the author use to show that the story is coming to an end? (before the project deadline, wrap up, final edit, one last flick through ...)*

Discuss the two plots and ask the students to find where the subplot develops.

- *Why do you think the author chose to resolve the subplot (missing objects) but not the main plot?*