

The Sackville Screammers

by Feana Tu'akoi

Summary

Mitch has a great new fundraising idea. He wants to form a band, with himself on bass guitar. There's one problem though—Mitch doesn't know how to play the bass guitar!

Features of the Text

- Realistic fiction with orientation, climax, and resolution
- Theme of triumph over adversity
- Clear sequence of events
- Dialogue and action

Purpose

The Sackville Screammers can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction text;
- exploring character development;
- making, confirming, and revising predictions;
- comparing and contrasting.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Share a time when you set out to achieve something that others thought you couldn't do. Ask the students to share similar experiences, drawing out the characteristics of people who keep trying.

Explain that this story is about a boy who comes up with a great idea but whose lack of success in the past makes his friends laugh at him.

– *As you read the story, notice how the author shows Mitch's character developing.*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4. When they have finished, ask them to use evidence from the text to answer the following questions.

- *How would you describe Mitch?*
- *How do you think Mitch will respond to Ms. Jackson?*
- *What role do you think Gina and her friends will play?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 10.

- *Why do you think Mitch is so confident about the concert?*
- *What traits do you admire in Mitch? Why?*

Ask the students to finish the story.

- *How did the author build up a picture of Mitch's personality?*
- *How do you think Jesse would have reacted?*
- *How did the author make Mitch's character interesting?*
- *Were you right about how the story would unfold?*

Brainstorm and discuss key attributes that describe Mitch. Discuss how the author has enabled us to explore Mitch's character development.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 73 to trace Mitch's character development
- compare and contrast the characters of Mitch and Gina
- write the ending from Gina's point of view
- write lyrics for a song The Sackville Screammers might sing.