

Clementine

by Sara Pennypacker

Hyperion Books for Children

A Reading and Discussion Guide

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SUMMARY:

Clementine is a spunky third grader who is allergic to sitting still, has a younger brother whose name we don't know because Clementine always calls him by vegetable names, and who is always getting in trouble for not paying attention – at least not to what the teachers want her to. Best friend Margaret is in the fourth grade and always perfect – until she gets glue in her hair and tries to cut it out, with Clementine's help. This starts a disastrous week that includes cutting off her own hair to make Margaret feel better, pigeon warfare, losing Margaret as a best friend, and thinking her parents want to get rid of her in favor of the easy one – her brother. The story is full of fresh ideas, creative vocabulary, and humor in abundance. *Clementine* is a book that, like *Ramona*, *Gooney Bird*, and *Franny K. Stein*, will be enjoyed by both adults and children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you have a brother or sister? Are they younger or older? Clementine gives her brother “wok “ rides. What kind of things do you do with your brother or sister?
2. Do you have a particular friend? Is she/he in your grade? Are there special things that you and your friend do? If you had an argument like Margaret and Clementine what would you do to set things right?
3. Clementine likes art class in school, but not journal writing. What are your favorite classes?
4. Clementine comes up with lots of good names and words from the bathroom. Do you have an unusual place that gives you remarkable words? What are some examples?

ACTIVITIES:

1. Start a journal like the one that Clementine is writing, one that will remind you of things that you might forget when you are a grown-up.

2. Try to make something for you friend with things that they like, like the hat that Clementine made for Margaret.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Before becoming a writer, Sara Pennypacker was a painter. She lives near the water on Cape Cod, Mass. When the water is warm she likes to float, when it's not she likes to collect things on the beach. She has two grown children. To read an interview with the author go to: <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6430169.html>.

Other books by the author:

The Talented Clementine, Stuart's Cape



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