



Stuck with the Blooz activities

Hi teachers, parents, and readers,
Thanks for reading *Stuck with the Blooz*!



I love exploring emotions and writing with students, so
I've jotted down some activities, discussion questions, and worksheets here.

Copy and use as many of the activities as you like--or make up your own!

I love hearing from readers, so be in touch.

Below is the story of what inspired me to write *Stuck with the Blooz*.

The rest of the pages have activities for Before and After you read the book.

Where I got the INSPIRATION for *Stuck with the Blooz*...

One day while I was teaching in elementary school, I noticed a student crying as she walked down the stairs. I pulled her aside and we sat on the steps. Speaking through her sniffles, she investigated her sadness by asking herself questions: was she hungry? Hurt? Tired? Homesick? She couldn't figure out why she had the blues at that moment, but she could describe what it felt like, remind herself that it would eventually go away, and brainstorm activities that would make her feel better. Her courage impressed me very much. I knew I wanted to share that conversation! A few months later, while I was sitting alone in a large empty house, looking at a cloudy sky, and listening to the rain, the Blooz knocked on my door...

Of course, the idea did not become a book right away! It took a lot of writing, erasing, patience, and persistence to create the story and find the right publisher...but it's all worth it because I'm so happy to be able to share the story and Jon Davis' wonderful illustrations with you!

Thanks for reading,

Caron

www.caronlevis.com

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Stuck with the Blooz activities

Before reading *Stuck with the Blooz* try this...

1. Have a chat about "the blues". Ask kids...
 - Have you ever heard the expression, "I've got the blues"?
 - What does it mean to have "the blues"?
 - Where have you heard that expression?
 - Do you ever get the "blues"?
 - Show me a sad face, make a sad sound.
 - Show me a happy face, make a happy sound!



2. Use the Before the Blooz activity sheet. Kids use their five senses and imaginations to brainstorm like writers! Let them share their work and notice similarities and differences in their responses. You have two handout options: page 2 is drawing only, page 3 is drawing & writing.

As you read *Stuck with the Blooz*, try this...

1. Ask kids to tell you what the Blooz sounds like when it knocks on the door, drips into the lemonade, walks, and more.
2. Ask kids to use their faces and hand motions to show how the Blooz and the child stare, plunk pebbles, collect leaves, and ride bikes!
3. Ask them to show you how the child in the story is feeling at the beginning, and then at the end.

After reading *Stuck with the Blooz* try this...

1. Discuss the emotions of the story:
 - How was the child feeling at the very beginning of the story?
 - How was the child feeling at the very end of the story?
 - What specific things did the child do with the Blooz?
 - Which activities helped change her mood?
 - What do you do when you are feeling sad that makes you feel better?
2. Give kids the "What I do when I feel blue" activity sheets and share them with the group.
3. Have kids fill out the Blooz story map. Adjust it for your age group; ask for words or pictures or both!
4. More discussion ideas:
 - Where do you think the Blooz went in the end of the story?
 - What do you notice about the spelling of the Blooz? Is that Inventive Sound spelling or Dictionary spelling?
 - Turn the pages again, ask kids if they notice what the illustrator did with the colors in the book!
 - Show the SECRET DRAWINGS by taking off the book's "jacket"! See if they can guess what words in the story might have inspired Jon to draw the image on the back.

5. Caron loves hearing from teachers, parents, and KIDS! You can write her: Caron Levis c/o Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/ 215 Park Avenue South/New York, NY 10003

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Stuck with the Blooz activities

*Try this before reading *Stuck with the Blooz*!*

Name _____

Date _____

The expression, "I have **the blues**" is another way of saying, "I feel **sad**". When Caron Levis was writing *Stuck with the Blooz*, she used her five senses to imagine what sad might look like. What do you imagine?

Sad is the color _____

Sad's shape is (a circle, a square, a heart, a squiggle) _____

Sad sounds like _____

Sad smells like _____

Sad tastes like _____

Sad's texture is (smooth, rough, slippery...) _____

DRAW a picture of what sad looks like in your imagination:



Stuck with the Blooz activities

*Try this before reading *Stuck with the Blooz*!*

Name_____

Date_____

The expression, "I have **the blues**" is another way of saying, "I feel **sad**". When Caron Levis was writing *Stuck with the Blooz*, she imagined what sad might look like.

Draw what sad looks like in your imagination:
What shape, color, size would sad be?



Stuck with the Blooz activities

Try this **after** reading *Stuck with the Blooz*!

Name _____

Date _____

When you feel blue, what makes you feel better? Draw a picture!

When I feel sad, something that makes me feel better is _____



Stuck with the Blooz activities

Try this **after** reading *Stuck with the Blooz*!

Stuck with the Blooz EMOTIONAL STORY MAP

In the beginning the characters felt,



In the middle the characters felt,



In the end the characters felt,
