

Brilliant Bea
Discussion Guide
Grades Pre-K – 4th

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Ask: Have you ever experienced something challenging? How might you have made that challenge easier? (Optional: Think, Pair, Share). This opens a discussion about challenges and strategies, making Bea's experiences with dyslexia more relatable.
- Briefly explain what dyslexia is, emphasizing that it affects how some people read and write, but doesn't reflect their overall intelligence or creative abilities. Ask: What are some ways we can help friends who see things differently in class?

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- How do you think Bea feels when she struggles with reading in class? Have you ever felt similar?
- Bea learns differently from some of her classmates. What makes her special? What makes you special?
- What tool does Bea use to help her tell her stories, and why is it effective for her?
- What do you notice about the way Bea's teacher helps her? How would you feel in Bea's place?
- How did Bea's classmates change how they saw her by the end of the story? Why do you think that changed?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: What does the story *Brilliant Bea* teach us about learning differences and finding unique solutions? Invite students to discuss how Bea's use of the tape recorder and her teacher's support helped her overcome her challenges with dyslexia.
- Have students share a moment when they felt successful in overcoming a personal challenge. Ask: What strategies did you use? List student responses on chart paper.
- Have students create a "My Brilliant Moment" wall, where students can write or draw about a time they felt successful in overcoming a challenge. Post these moments on a classroom wall dedicated to celebrating personal achievements.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.