BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Darryl's Dream by Darryl "DMC" McDaniels

Book Summary

As a shy young boy who wore thick glasses and loved music and writing, Darryl was often teased by his peers. When the school talent show came around, Darryl decided to sign up to share his poetry. Unfortunately, a group of bullies changed his mind and he removed his name from the list. That night, Darryl had a dream which made him realize the most important wish is to be the best version of himself. Darryl's dream allowed him to find his voice and to no longer worry about what others thought of him.

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about and discuss what you think Darryl is dreaming of.
- Talk about what you dream of becoming when you grow up or a place you would like to visit.
- Discuss how the author was a member of the legendary rap group, Run DMC. Search YouTube to listen to songs performed by Run DMC or google images to see his trademark glasses.

Target Vocabulary

- **recite**: to read out loud or say something from memory, usually in front of an audience
- **defeated**: feeling unable to succeed or achieve something
- **drifted**: to fall asleep
- **supercharged**: supplied with more air or fuel than normal to increase power
- **hot rod**: a car that has been upgraded to be faster or more powerful
- **version**: a form of something that is different from other forms
- **recording studio**: a room where music is performed and recorded with singers or instruments
- **pioneer**: a person who creates or develops new ideas, products, or ways of doing something

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During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Write a poem describing all of the things you love about yourself.
- Create a vision board to share your biggest dreams using magazines, newspapers, art supplies, and any other materials available.
- Listen to music by Run DMC and select one song you like best. After listening several times, try to recite the lyrics to one verse or the chorus.

Example Questions to Ask

- What did Darryl's teacher want him to perform at the talent show?
- How would you feel if bullies treated you the same way Darryl was treated?
- Darryl didn't like his big glasses. Can you think of something kind to say about a part of yourself that you sometimes don't like?
- Why didn't Darryl feel happy when he was hanging out with the mean kids in his dream?
- How would you respond if you saw a classmate or friend being bullied?
- At the beginning of the story, Darryl was shy. How would you describe him at the end of the story?
- Tell me about a time when you felt most confident.