



# The Greatest Kid in the World

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Resilience, Determination, Sports

**Book Brief:** The true story of a boy who loses a bicycle and discovers his talents!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Vera Zaytseva

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, “Have you ever had something disappointing happen that led to something good or unexpected? What happened?” Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** “As we read, think about the main idea of Cassius’s story and what we can learn about turning challenges into opportunities.”



**Think Aloud:** “I’m noticing that even though losing his bicycle was upsetting, it led Cassius to try something new—boxing. This seems like an important message: sometimes disappointing moments can lead us to discover talents we didn’t know we had.”

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What happens to Cassius’s bicycle?
- How does Cassius feel when he loses his bicycle?
- What does Cassius discover about himself after this happens?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** “What is the main idea of Cassius’s story? What important lesson can we learn about how he handled disappointment?”

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, “What is a talent or skill you have discovered about yourself? How did you find out you were good at it?” Encourage students to try one new activity this month—whether it’s a sport, art project, musical instrument, type of writing, or helping with something at home—and reflect on what they learned about themselves, even if they discover it’s not their favorite thing.

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- 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.