



The Cool Bean

READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Being Yourself, Friendship, Kindness

Book Brief: A heartwarming story about a bean who tries hard to fit in with the cool crowd and learns an important lesson about being yourself!

Author:
Jory John

Illustrator:
Pete Oswald

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Show students the cover and ask, "What do you think this story is about? What do you see?"

The Pictures: Flip through the pages and ask, "What do you notice in the pictures?"

Prior Knowledge: Ask, "What does it mean to be kind? How can you show kindness to a friend or classmate?"

Vocabulary: Before reading, frontload the meaning of any Tier 2 words (e.g., confident, gesture)

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, let's think about the lesson this story teaches us about helping others."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Who are the cool beans and what makes them seem cool?
- Why does the bean think he will never fit in?
- How does the bean try to fit in?
- What happened when the bean needed a friend? How did it make him feel?



Think Aloud: "When the cool beans show that being yourself is what makes you cool, everything changes. The message is that true coolness comes from being confident in who you are, not from copying others."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "What lesson did this story teach us? In what ways can you help a friend when they need it?"

Extending Our Thinking: Ask students, "What makes YOU cool or special just the way you are?" Encourage students to create a "What Makes Me Cool" poster where they draw themselves and add words or pictures showing what makes them unique and special. Students can share their posters and celebrate what makes each person in the class cool in their own way.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Read other stories by Jory John, such as [The Couch Potato](#).
- 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.