

The Bad Seed



READ ALOUD

Themes: change and growth, kindness, second chances, self-acceptance

Book Brief: There is a bad seed in town, and everyone knows it. He cuts in line, he never listens, and his attitude is the worst. But this seed has not always been bad, and deep down he is wondering if things could ever be different. Can one very bad seed decide to change?

Author(s):

Jory John

Illustrator(s):

Pete Oswald

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and the cover illustration. Why do you think the seed is bad?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. Point out the seed's face on different pages. Ask students how the seed's feelings seem to change.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, "Do you have a habit that you tried to change?" Talk about what makes changing a habit hard.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: "Let's read to find out why the seed acts badly, and what happens when he decides to change."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- How does the seed feel about being called a "bad seed"?
- What happened to the seed in the past that changed him?
- What big decision does the seed make? Why?
- The seed says change is hard. What good things does he start doing anyway?
- By the end, how does the seed feel about himself? Has he changed?



Think Aloud: "When the seed says, 'It's hard to be good when you're so used to being bad. But I'm trying,' I stop and think: the seed isn't perfect, and he still slips up. But he keeps trying. That tells me that changing takes time, and that trying is what matters most."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Why did the seed act badly? What made him decide to change? How is he different by the end?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students use [RIF's Writing Template](#), and have students draw a "before and after" of the seed, and write one kind thing they could try, one day at a time.

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 titles by Jory John.
 - [The Cool Bean](#) (2019)
 - [The Good Egg](#) (2019)
 - [The Couch Potato](#) (2020)