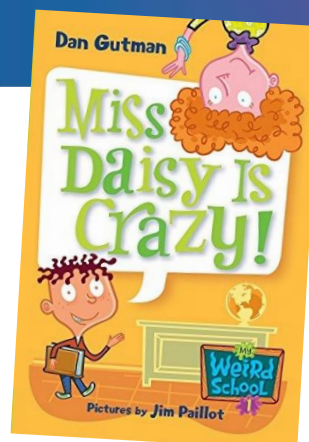


Miss Daisy Is Crazy! (My Weird School #1): Discussion Guide

Author: Dan Gutman

Themes: Learning, School, Creativity,
Teamwork, Motivation, Problem-Solving,
Perspective



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

- Ask, “What makes a teacher great? What are some things that make learning fun or exciting?”
- Look at the cover and title together. Ask, “What do you notice about Miss Daisy? Why do you think the title is Miss Daisy Is Crazy!? What do you predict might happen in this story?”
- Purpose for Reading: “As we read, pay attention to how A.J. and his classmates feel about school and how Miss Daisy makes learning different. Think about how their attitudes change throughout the story.”

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

Chapter One: I Hate School!

- Why does A.J. say he hates school?
- What surprises A.J. about Miss Daisy?
- How does A.J.’s attitude about school begin to change after meeting Miss Daisy?

Chapter Two: Dumb Miss Daisy and Principal Klutz

- What does Miss Daisy say she doesn’t understand about arithmetic?
- How do the students try to help Miss Daisy with math?
- Why does A.J. begin to think Principal Klutz might not be what he expected?

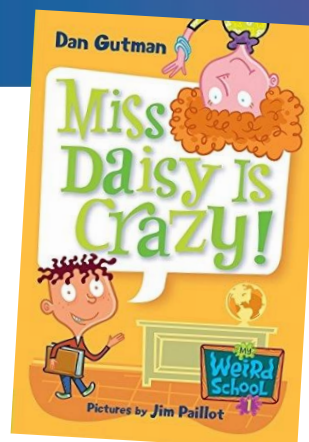
Chapter Three: How to Spell Read

- What does Miss Daisy say she cannot do?
- How do the students help Miss Daisy with spelling?
- What do you notice about how much the students participate when Miss Daisy asks for their help?

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

Chapter Four: Miss Daisy Is Crazy!

- Why do the students begin to wonder if Miss Daisy is really a teacher?
- What explanations do they imagine for why she is there?
- Why does A.J. want to keep Miss Daisy as their teacher even though he thinks she doesn't know very much?

Chapter Five: The Most Genius Idea!

- What is Ryan's "genius" idea?
- What would the students do with the school if they owned it?
- What does their plan show about how they feel about school? FlipHTML5

Chapter Six: What Do You Want to Be?

- What are some of the jobs the students want to have when they grow up?
- Why does A.J. want to become a football player?
- What does A.J.'s explanation show about what he believes about school and learning?

Chapter 7: Bonbons and Footballs

- How does Miss Daisy use bonbons during math?
- What does A.J. want the class to talk about after the bonbon activity?
- What do you notice about the way Miss Daisy gets the students involved in their lessons?

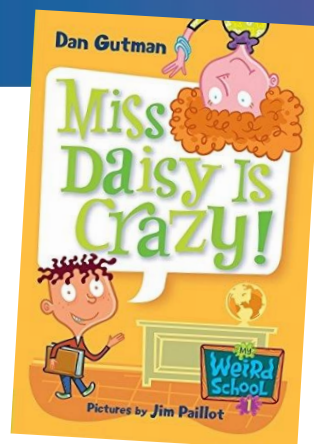
Chapter 8: A Lot of Books!

- What do the students ask Principal Klutz to let them do with the school?
- What deal does Principal Klutz make with them?
- Why do you think Principal Klutz chooses **reading one million pages** as the challenge?

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

Chapter 9: Put Those Books Away

- How does A.J. get other students excited about the reading challenge?
- What starts happening around the school after everyone learns about the challenge?
- Why is it funny that Miss Daisy has to tell the students to put their books away when it is time for reading?

Chapter 10: Football Players Are Really Dumb

- Why is A.J. excited when Boomer Wiggins visits the class?
- What does Boomer explain about the reading, writing, and studying he does as a football player?
- How does what A.J. learns from Boomer challenge something he believed earlier in the book?

Chapter 11: We Rule the School!

- How do we know the students reached their reading goal?
- How does Principal Klutz keep his promise?
- At the beginning of the book, A.J. says he hates school. What does his excitement about coming to school on a Friday night show about him now?

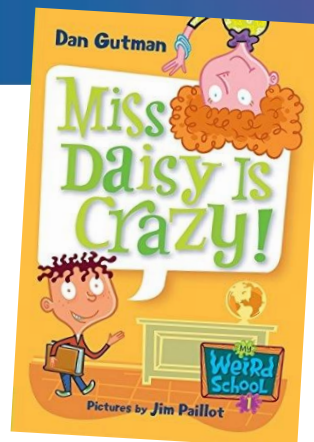
Chapter 12: Poor Miss Daisy

- What makes A.J. begin to suspect that Miss Daisy might actually know how to read?
- Why do you think Miss Daisy might have been pretending not to know things?
- How has A.J.'s attitude toward school and learning changed since Chapter 1?

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After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask, “How did A.J.’s feelings about school change throughout the story? What did Miss Daisy do to make learning more interesting? What can we learn from their experiences?”

Extend Our Thinking:

- **The Perfect School:** Have students imagine they could design their own school, just like A.J. and his classmates wanted to do. Draw or write about what their school would look like, what students would learn, and what would make it special. Encourage students to think about how they could make learning both fun and meaningful.
- **Miss Daisy’s Secret:** Throughout the story, Miss Daisy acts like she doesn’t know how to read, spell, or do math. Ask students whether they think Miss Daisy really struggles with these skills or is pretending. Have students use clues from the story to support their opinions. Discuss why Miss Daisy might choose to teach this way and how her approach affects the students.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue discussing how their attitudes toward school and learning can change through new experiences.
- Invite students to explore other books in Dan Gutman’s *My Weird School* series. [Compare](#) the unusual teachers, funny situations, and ways A.J. and his classmates respond to challenges at school.