

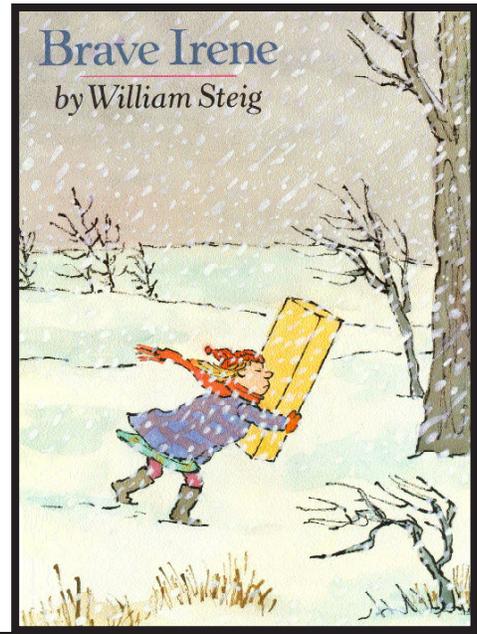
BOOKPALS STORYLINE PRESENTS:

"BRAVE IRENE"

By *William Steig*

Watch online video of former Vice President of the United States of America *Al Gore* reading this story at <http://www.storylineonline.net>

Plucky Irene, a dressmaker's daughter, braves a fierce snowstorm to deliver a new gown to the duchess in time for the ball.



RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Tell, write, or draw about a time in your life when you had to be courageous.
 - Describe the circumstances of the time you had to be courageous.
2. In this book Irene's mother has "pet" names for Irene.
 - What are these "pet" names?
 - What is a "pet" name?
 - What "pet" name(s) have you been called?
3. The plot in this book is very developed.
 - There is a beginning, middle and end.
Describe the beginning, middle and end of this story.
 - There is an INTRODUCTION of the: Who? Where? and What?
Describe the Who? Where? And What of this story.
 - There is a PROBLEM.
Tell about the PROBLEM in this story.
 - The story is developed through the COMPLICATION and the CLIMAX.
Describe the COMPLICATION and the CLIMAX in this story.
 - And, finally, there is a RESOLUTION.

Read the book again and fill-in the chart on the next page as you identify the elements of the story.

Read the book and fill-in this chart as you identify the elements of the story.

Describe the beginning, middle and end of the story:

Beginning: - - - - -

Middle: - - - - -

End: - - - - -

INTRODUCTION:

Who? - - - - -

Where? - - - - -

What? - - - - -

PROBLEM: - - - - -

- - - - -

COMPLICATION: - - - - -

- - - - -

- - - - -

CLIMAX: - - - - -

- - - - -

RESOLUTION: - - - - -

- - - - -

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CONTINUED...

4. Irene had a problem: getting to the palace. How else could she have solved her problem of getting to the palace?

5. "Soon night took over... alone!" How would you feel in that situation? What would you do in that situation?

6. At one point the author writes, "Would you like to hear the rest?" Why did William Steig do that?

7. Descriptive, lush language is used by William Steig throughout the book *Brave Irene*. Discuss the meaning of the following sentences found in the book.

"The wind wrestled
her for the package
- walloped it,
twisted it, shook it,
snatched at it."

"The ball gown flounced
out and went waltzing
through
the powdered air
with tissue-paper
attendants."

8. Find 5 sentences in *Brave Irene* that make it easy for you to visualize in your mind what is happening. Write these sentences on a piece of paper and discuss them with someone.

Themes addressed in this book for discussion:

- courage
- determination
- single parent home
- transportation
- seasons
- weather (wind, snow)
- careers

Other books you might enjoy about the topics in "Brave Irene"

"North Country Night"
by Daniel San Souci

"Owl Moon"
by Jane Yolen

Bibliography for "courageous"

"The Little Circle" by Ann Atwood

"How Many Days to America"
by Eve Bunting

"Cheyenne Again" by Eve Bunting

"Pink and Say" by Patricia Polacco

"I Can Hear the Sun"
by Patricia Polacco

"Amber on the Mountain"
by Tony Johnston

"The Jester Has Lost His Jingle"
by David Saltzman

MORE ACTIVITIES

1. It is important to wear the appropriate clothing for different kinds of weather. Research the kinds of clothing people wear "When It Snows", "At the Beach on a Summer Day", "In the Rain."

Use the information you found in your research to fill in the following chart:

Appropriate Clothing for the Weather

When It Snows: - - - - -

At the Beach: - - - - -

In the Rain: - - - - -

On a Summer Day: - - - - -

2. Describe a snow blizzard in a cinquain or Haiku.

A Cinquain is a form of poetry with five lines, written using a recipe. The words you choose and the form they take on paper are an important part of the writing.

Here's the recipe:

Line 1: one word to name the subject

Line 2: two words to describe the subject

Line 3: three action words about the subject

Line 4: a four or five word phrase describing the subject (a thought, not a complete sentence)

Line 5: one word that means the

same thing as the first word, or a word that sums it all up

Here's an example:

Dog
Fluffy, playful
Running, rolling, licking
A bundle of energy
Canine

A Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry which looks simple, but is really very structured with rules for the way you write it. In English, Haiku consists of 17 syllables, which are arranged in three lines.

Here's the recipe:

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

Here's an example:

Spring goes, summer comes
With the warm heat from the sun
Swimming, picnics fun!

Now, describe a snow blizzard in a cinquain or Haiku.

Helpful resource books for your writing:

"Hailstones and Halibut Bones"
by Mary O'Neill

"My Many Color Days" by Dr. Seuss

"Picasso the Green Tree Frog"
by Amanda Graham

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

Two of the major themes in *Brave Irene* are a blizzard and courage. Go to these websites to learn more about snow blizzards and courage.

Snow blizzard:

Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blizzard> and read about blizzards. The first three sections of this article tell about what makes a blizzard. Find the information to answer the following and then share the information orally or written with someone.

Tell someone the three things necessary to make a blizzard.
Describe a whiteout to someone.
Tell which book by Laura Ingalls Wilder is devoted to describing a blizzard. If you haven't read this book, check it out of your library and read it. You will learn what it was like to live through a winter of blizzards as told by Laura Ingalls Wilder.
Describe the Storm of the Century presented on this website.
Present the details of the North American Blizzard of 2003.

Digital Snow Museum: Go to <http://nsidc.org/snow/blizzards.html> and click on "Digital Snow Museum". Click on the different images...pick some from each of the centuries: 1700's, 1800's, 1900's and 2000's, so you have a broad scope of eras to compare. What do you notice is different about the blizzards and time periods? What do you notice is the same about the blizzards and time periods? Look carefully at the surroundings, buildings, transportation, how the people are dressed. Make a chart to compare your observations.

Courage:

Courage is a very important trait in *Brave Irene*. Go to these websites and read more about courage.

Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courage> and read the definition of courage. How did Irene show "physical courage" in the book *Brave Irene*? Give specific examples of her "physical courage".

Go to <http://www.answers.com/topic/courage> and read the section that gives many words that mean courage...these are called "synonyms". Select two of these words which you think describe Irene. Look up the definitions of these words in a dictionary and share your information with someone.

Global Warming:

Mr. Al Gore, who read this story to you, has long been interested in global warming. There are some websites listed below for you to visit to learn more about this important phenomenon happening in our world.

Go to www.deliciousorganics.com and read about some of the causes of global warming. Share your information with someone. Make a list of things you can do to help slow down global warming.

Go to www.nwf.org and click on "Global Warming" in the bar across the top. Then, scroll down and click on "Wildlife and Global Warming". Read about how the environment and habitats are changing for both animals and humans. Make a list of your findings and share it with someone.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Called the "King of Cartoons" by Newsweek, *William Steig* has carved out dual careers as both a highly respected and entertaining cartoonist and an award winning, best-selling author of children's picture books and novels. "Sylvester and the Magic Pebble" captured the prestigious Caldecott Medal. Other award winners include: the Newbery Honor Books "Abels Island" and "Doctor De Soto." In semi-retirement since 1990, the prolific Steig continues to turn out winning titles in his own tenth decade of life. William Steig was born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 14, 1907.

Other books by William Steig:

"Amos and Boris"

"Dominic"

"Shrek"

"Sylvester and the Magic Pebble"

"Pete's a Pizza"

"Dr. De Soto"

ABOUT THE READER

The Honorable *Al Gore* has served as vice president of the United States, Congressman, Vietnam veteran and prior to his public



service, was a successful working journalist. Acclaimed for his environmental achievements, his pioneering efforts were outlined in the best-selling book "Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit."

Vice President Gore has co-written, with Tipper Gore, two highly acclaimed books, "Joined at the Heart: The Transformation of the American Family" and "The Spirit of Family." His Oscar-winning feature film documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* also won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album.

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and ELLEN NATHAN, BookPALS National Program Director.

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