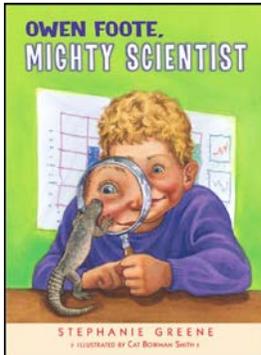


OWEN FOOTE, MIGHTY SCIENTIST**CURRICULUM TIE-INS:**

Competition
Responsibility
Teamwork
Cooperation

PLOT SUMMARY:

Owen is determined to win the school science fair and impress Mr. Wozniak. When Joseph is reluctant to work on Owen's project, Owen hides certain facts about the idea from Joseph so he'll go along with him. Joseph discovers the truth on his own, and Owen not only learns about science, but about friendship, too.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

1. What are reptiles and amphibians? Do you like them or not? What kind do you like most? What information have you learned about them? What other kinds of animals do you like?
2. Why did Owen get mad when Anthony won a prize in the science fair? How much do you think parents should be allowed to help with a project?
3. Owen thinks that kids would make better judges of a science fair than adults. Why?
4. More than anything, Owen wants to help build Critter Island. Have you ever done anything like that in your school using animals or for any other subject? How about another interesting and fun science project? Which was your favorite? What's one you'd like to work on?
5. There are many signs along the way that Owen and Joseph don't like one another's ideas for a project. What are some of the signs? Why do they continue to work together? What does it say about their friendship?
6. Owen decides not to show Joseph the photographs he found of deformed snakes and frogs. Why? Do you think he was right to do this? Why, or why not?
7. Let's talk about ambition: First of all, what is ambition? Owen's ambition is to win first prize in the science fair so Mr. Wozniak will pick him to be in his class. Because it's so important to him, Owen starts to treat Joseph an unfair way. What does Owen do in pursuit of his ambition that's not fair to Joseph? What do you think was the worst of the things he did? Do you think it's right for people to do whatever they want to get what they want? What would you do if a friend treated you like that?
8. When Owen loses interest in Chuck, it makes him feel like a wimp. Why? Do you think he really loses interest, or is it something else? What about the way he treats Chuck – is it right? How else might he take care of his lizard?

9. How does Joseph finally discover the photographs of deformed frogs and snakes? What is his reaction? How does his reaction make you feel about him? How does Owen feel?
10. How does the death of the control tadpoles restore Owen's and Joseph's friendship? What does Owen come to realize about their friendship at the end? Does it make it stronger or weaker?

WORD HUNT:

It's fun to discover new words. See if your students can find the words below on the pages in the book where they're used. Then see if they can figure out what the word means by reading the sentence it's in. Let them choose several of the words to use in sentences of their own.

1. Burrowed..... p. 5
2. Glimmer..... p. 9
3. Herpetologist..... p. 10
4. Retaliate..... p. 25
5. Thrashing..... p. 28
6. Peepers..... p. 36
7. Hypothesis..... p. 37
8. Fascinated..... p. 43
9. Listless..... p. 47
10. Vague..... p. 59
11. Catastrophe..... p. 71
12. Interference..... p. 82

CREATIVE WRITING EXERCISE:

Critter Island is an idea that has to do with animals, but a class could build a project around a lot of other subjects, as well. Ask the children to think of something they might help build around their favorite subject. It could be a maze or puzzle in math, or replica of a town or place in social studies, something in science, or any other subject. Tell them to write about how they'd build it, what it would include, etc.

Owen and Joseph study the growth cycle of frogs, starting with the eggs. Let the children pick an animal whose life cycle they want to study, and do a report on it. They can include photographs and drawing and graphs, etc.