



ROBYN REPORTS:
THE NUTTY NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY
By Stacy Tornio
Illustrations by Roel Wielinga

A Story From Hot Topics Hot Serials

Teacher's Guide



Chapter Six: Time to Spit!

Summary:

The spitting contest begins but comes to an abrupt halt when Henry accuses Sarah of cheating.

Getting Ready to Read/Predicting:

Which sports do your students enjoying watching? Which do they like playing? Are those the same? Why? Would they prefer participating in or watching a seed-spitting contest?

Vocabulary Words or Phrases:

Have the students find each word in the chapter and define it in context. They should look up any unfamiliar word in a dictionary and use it in a sentence.

lawn

compete

contestants

round

survey

tarps

lunge

Comprehension Check:

1. Why doesn't Sarah's sister Madison compete in the spitting contest?
She is a good coach but not a good spitter.
2. How do they pick a winner in this contest?
The one whose seed goes the farthest wins.
3. What do the spitters do to get ready?
They move their tongues around in their mouths to build up saliva.

Newspaper Activity:

Robyn's mother says that reporters must be fair. They must be objective in reporting the news. That means that they should write the facts of a story but should not include their opinions. That's why Robyn should not say which person is her favorite spitter. Newspapers do offer opinions in some sections. Reviews are opinions. Editorial columns are opinions, too. Find an editorial in your newspaper. Read it and find three facts and three opinions.

Writing Prompt:

Sarah is accused of cheating. Cheating is a big problem in some schools. Have you ever seen anyone cheat during a test? Without telling that person's name, write a paragraph telling what you saw. Is it ever OK to cheat on a test? Why? Write another paragraph giving your opinion about cheating in school. Some people say that cheating hurts everyone in the class. How is that possible?

Daily Edit:

Here is a paragraph from this story that is not punctuated or punctuated incorrectly. There may also be spelling errors. Have your students copy it and correct it as needed. They can self-check by looking at the printed copy in the newspaper.

“How come you don’t compete I ask her? “Doesn’t spitting run in the family.”

“Nope” She says. “I train Sarah, but I cant even spit two feet. I guess I’m a better coach than I am a spitter.

Learning standards:

identifying fact and opinion, writing persuasively