

Almost Starring Skinnybones by Barbara Park is a chapter book. This book is comical and contains humorous characters. It is great for guided reading or read aloud. This comprehension packet includes vocabulary, comprehension questions, and discussion questions.

Almost Starring Skinnybones

By: Barbara Park

Chapter 2

Vocab: French beret, professional, accomplished, cooperation, cha-cha, cat saliva

1. How does Alex feel about the people on the streets of New York City?
2. Who is Alex named after?
3. Who "furrowed their brows" at Alex and why?
4. Who is Ronald? Donald?
5. What is Alex most worried about?
6. Describe the commercial.

Chapter 3

Vocab: cackle, penetrate, shudder

1. How does he react to seeing his commercial on TV? How does Brian Dunlop react?
2. What's a fair weather friend?
3. What harsh cutdown does Brian give Alex?
4. Instead of hitting Brian, how does Alex handle his anger?
5. Does Alex's method work?

Chapter 4

Vocab: paranoid, bombarded, traitor, unruly, moron

Discussion Questions

1. What is hen fruit?
2. What is TB?

Questions

1. Why do you think Brian didn't wait for him?
2. How did his classmates react when they discovered Alex was in the commercial?

Chapter 5

Vocab: discouraged, sympathetic, lunatic

1. Who was at Alex's home when he arrived after school? (Ernest, Fluffy)
2. Why was he wishing his mom would have been there?
3. Why did Alex lock Fluffy out of the house?
4. Why is Alex crying at the end of Chapter 5?

Chapter 6

Vocab: ridiculed, auditorium, spectacular, "David Copperfield", concentrating, mutant, blitz, distinguished, dignified

1. Down deep in his heart, how does Alex feel about his own commercial?
2. According to Alex, and his humor, how does he think the principal should quiet down the students at the assembly?
3. Since Annabelle keeps teasing him about the commercial, what does he tease her about?
4. How does Alex try to be a star again?
5. Do you think he has succeeded in being a star? Explain your answer.

Chapter 7

Vocab:

reluctant- not feeling sure; hesitant

mallet- wooden hammer

sympathetically- care about someone else's feelings

Hollywood agent- a person who helps actors find jobs

mock- to make fun of by imitating

seltzer- bottled sparkling style water

accent- a way of speaking that reflects where someone lives

script- a copy of the words that are spoken in a play

proceed- to go on, after an interruption
production- a stage play
precisely- exactly
casual- not fancy

Choose six vocabulary words and write sentences for each. Make sure your sentences have capital letters, proper punctuation marks, and spelling.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Questions:

1. Why is Alex so happy at the beginning of this chapter?
2. Not counting Alex, who were the four members of his fan club?
3. Is this fan club real or imaginary?
4. What suggestions did Tyrone Hayes make that Alex is seriously thinking about?
5. What do you think Brian thinks about Alex's performance with Amazing Mel?
6. Do you think Alex should do this or not? Explain your answer.

Chapter 9

Vocab: stage fright, casually, unmercifully, sissy suit, circular, lavatory, trousers, commotion, stall, bellowed

Questions:

1. What's wrong with Albert?
2. How does Alex make the problem worse?
3. What idea does Mr. Filton come up with to hopefully save the show?
4. What two different kinds of feelings are going on in Alex's mind as he takes the Scrooge costume and slowly puts it on?
5. How did Alex get Albert to go out on stage?

Chapter 10

Vocab: unsung, quiet hero, degrading, smug

Questions:

1. As the chapter beings, who is Alex's biggest fan? Why?
2. Would you say Albert appreciates Alex? Explain your answer.
3. When Alex had a chance for revenge, does he take it? Why or why not?