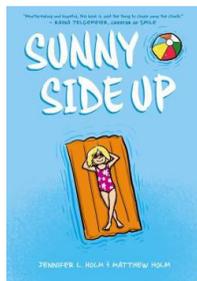


Sunny Side Up
by Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm



Grade Levels: 4-6

Synopsis: (semi-autobiographical)

Sunny's big plans for the summer include a beach vacation with her family and her best friend, but things change abruptly. Sunny finds herself spending the summer with her closet-smoker of a grandfather at a Florida retirement community. A trip to Disney World would be a silver lining, but it doesn't seem like she'll ever make it there. Buzz, whose father works at the retirement home, befriends a dejected Sunny, ushering in new adventures and a new-found love of superhero comics. Gradually, the impetus for Sunny's visit is revealed -- and it has to do with the poor choices of her brother Dale.

Author Website:

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Cross-Curricular Connections:

- Art: Graphic Format Text/Cartooning
- Health: Drug Abuse Education and Prevention
- Social Studies: 1970s
- Family and Consumer Sciences/Counseling: Family Relationships

Lesson Ideas:

- Persuasive Writing Extension : As Sunny, have students write letters to Sunny's grandfather persuading him to stop smoking. Include logical facts and emotional quotations from references to the text.
- Persuasive Writing Extension: Pose the question to students: Do you think Sunny's parents made the right choice sending her to stay with her grandfather while they got Dale help for his drug problem? Why or why not?
- Narrative Writing Extension: Ask students to write a narrative piece on a trip they have taken. Students may choose a trip to visit family. They may choose to focus on a trip that turned out differently than they had expected. They may select a trip that led to special family bonding or inspired them in some way.
- Then and Now Extension: Have students each select a person to interview who was a child or teenager in the 1970s to collect primary source research. Pre-interview, have students make lists of their current favorites (foods, movies, music, TV, clothes, etc.) and collect information about their interviewee's equivalent favorites in the 1970s.

- Drug Abuse Education and Prevention : Analyze the character of Dale. Study his behavior in panels showing him using drugs vs. panels that do not indicate drug use. How does Dale change?

Common Core Standards:

- English Language Arts
 - Reading Literature
 - RL1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (SC, 5)
 - RL2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
 - RL6 Describe how a narrator’s or speaker’s point of view influences how events are described.
 - RL7 Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text (e.g., graphic novel, multimedia presentation of fiction, folktale, myth, poem).
 - RL9 Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries and adventure stories) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.
 - Writing
 - W1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
 - W3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
 - W4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task. purpose, and audience.
 - Speaking and Listening
 - SL1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly. (SC, 5)
 - SL2 Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Additional Materials:

- Scholastic Book Trailer: <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/books/book-trailers/sunny-side>
- Kid Lit TV Book Trailer: <http://kidlit.tv/2015/08/sunny-side-up/>
- Scholastic Mother/Daughter Book Club Discussion Questions:
- <http://www.scholastic.com/motherdaughterbookclub/pdf/Scholastic-MDBCSunnySideUp.pdf>

Suggested Companion Titles:

- *Sisters* by Raina Telgemeier
- *A Long Way from Chicago* by Richard Peck
- *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

Professional Reviews:

- *Booklist*, 8/1/15
- *Horn Book Guide* starred, 4/1/2016
- *Horn Book Magazine* starred, 9/1/2015
- *Kirkus Reviews* starred, 7/1/2015
- *Library Media Connection* starred, 3/1/16
- *School Library Journal* starred, 8/1/2015