

Book Guide
Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program



Book Title:	EllRay Jakes (any book in the series)
Author:	Sally Warner
Illustrator:	Jamie Harper

Recommended Audience	<input type="checkbox"/> K5	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 th	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 th	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 th
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Length of Time to Read:
 15-20 minutes a day for 5-8 days

Summary:
 EllRay Jakes is an eight-year-old boy who lives with his mom, dad, and sister, Alfie. He is the smallest kid in Ms. Sanchez’s third grade class. This series by Sally Warner is told in a humorous, first person perspective as EllRay tries to stand up to bullies at school and live up to his dad’s high expectations.

Before Reading (Create Interest):
 Ask the students if they have ever been picked on. How did it make them feel? What did they do to stand up for themselves? Did they decide to tell an adult? Why or why not? Introduce the students to EllRay Jakes, the smallest kid in third grade, who has to drag himself to school every day for yet another round of bullying by his classmates, Jared and Stanley. Author Sally Warner uses a first person narrative to tell the story, meaning we get to hear all of the events from EllRay’s point of view.

- During Reading (Discussion/Questions):**
- Stop and show students the illustrations as you read.
 - Pause at the beginning of each chapter to talk about the title. Each short chapter has an intriguing title that captures interest and entices kids to keep reading. Ask the students if they have any favorite book titles that captured their curiosity right away.
 - Make predictions based on each chapter title. At the end of each chapter, have the students confirm or change their predictions based on what they’ve learned.
 - Ask the students if they would have made the same choices that EllRay did. Why or why not?
 - Ask the students to draw connections between EllRay’s experiences and their own lives.

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After Reading:

Ask the students if they liked the book. Why or why not?

Ask the students if they can relate to EllRay. Invite them to share stories and draw connections.

What do you think EllRay's classmates or teacher could have done to stop bullying at school? What are some specific things YOU could do to stand up to bullying?

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Connection:

- 1) Have your students create an acrostic poem by writing "STOP BULLYING" so that the letters run vertically on the page. Next, have them use each letter to write one specific thing they can do to stand up to bullying. Example:

S peak up if you see someone being picked on
T ell an adult if you see bullying happening
O pen your mind to others who might be different from you
P ay attention to how others are being treated

B e a friend to someone who has been bullied
U nderstand that words have power
L et your classmates know what you like about them
L earn about things you have in common with others
Y ou can always say you are sorry if you have said something hurtful
I magine what it feels like to be bullied
N ever join in the bullying
G o over and let someone who has been bullied know that you care

- 2) Play a variation of "Simon Says" to help your students learn new things about each other and celebrate both their similarities and differences. After the game, ask each student to share one new thing they learned about one of their classmates. Here are some sample instructions:

- Simon says, "Everyone who loves spaghetti with meat balls, stand up."
- Simon says, "Everyone with brown eyes, wiggle your nose."
- Simon says, "Everyone who can speak Spanish, nod your head."

This activity can be found here: http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/00-2/lp2061.shtml

Ideas for younger or older children

Encourage older students to flex their creative writing muscles. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Challenge them to write a theatrical scene or illustrate a comic strip dramatizing a favorite chapter or moment from the book.
- 2) Have them write the first short chapter for a NEW EllRay Jakes book about his first day of 4th grade. Make sure the students come up with an intriguing title for their chapter.

Additional Notes: This lesson plan can be used with any EllRay Jakes book. If the students enjoy the book, encourage them to look for other books in the series at their nearest library. You can find other great activities to go along with the EllRay Jakes series here: <https://www.teachingbooks.net/>

