

Curriculum Guide

The Manic Panic by Richa Jha, illustrated by Mithila Ananth

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Guided Reading Level L, Grade Level Equivalent 2, RRL 19

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.3,4,4a,4c,5,5a,5b,6; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.2.3,4,4a,4c; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1,2,3,5,6,7,10; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1,1b,2,3,4,6; CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.1,3,5,8

Why does the family need Wifi? What do the parents use it for? What does the girl use it for? Does your family use the Internet? What is the most common thing they do with it? What is the most common thing you do with it?

Technology is a big part of the story, even though it's not working. The girl points out to her parents that they didn't have Internet when they were kids. Is there other technology the parents have now that they didn't have earlier? How has the technology changed their lives? For better or for worse?

How does the main character, the girl, take advantage of having no Internet? What kinds of things does the family do that doesn't require technology or a screen?

What's expected about this story? What's unexpected? Do you think that the adults will solve the problem or that the girl will? How is the problem solved?

Differences in points of view: How would you tell this story from the Grandma's point of view? From the Dad's? From the Mom's? From the cat's? From the mouse's? Write your version of the story from one of the other character's point of view. Have fun with seeing the changes between the different versions.

How do the pictures help tell the story? Give an example of something that's shown in the art that isn't said in words. Draw your own illustrations to one these pages and see how different you can be from what the illustrator, Mithila Ananth, does. For example, for the pages that say:

They will grumble.

And fret. And protest.

Or

But you will knit your brows, roll your eyes, and not give in.

Who caused the problem? Are there visual hints that give you an idea of what might have happened before you come to the last page?

The family in this book is Indian. Does that make a difference in the story? How do you know they're Indian? List the visual clues that tell you that.

Do you or your family take breaks from screen time? Why and when?

What do you do instead?

What do screens help you see? What do they keep you from seeing?

Make a list of the advantages of having Internet access and the advantages of not having it.

Write a story about a day in your home with no Internet. What would happen? What would you do instead of spending time on screens that you might not do otherwise?