IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR’S MESSAGE

Thank You, Mr. Falker
By Patricia Polacco

SUMMARY

Thank You, Mr. Falker is a story of Trisha, a little girl who could hardly wait for school to start. Trisha could paint and draw beautiful pictures but when she looked at the words and letters on a page, all she could see was a jumbled mess. Because Trisha could not read, she quickly fell behind in school. Her classmates began to bully her and call her dumb. Before long, Trisha began to believe the mean things her classmates said. Then her family moved to California where she met Mr. Falker. Mr. Falker was Trisha’s fifth grade teacher. He was different from every teacher Trisha had before. He wore striped coats and butterfly ties and he thought that Trisha was brilliant. Mr. Falker realized that Trisha was a smart and talented girl with a very unique problem. Mr. Falker did not call Trisha dumb. Instead her solved her problem and taught her to read.

LINK TO WHAT YOU KNOW

- Think of a time when you felt dumb. Why did you feel dumb?
- Think of a time when you tried to do something but found it difficult. How did you feel?
- What does the word “bully” mean?

Read Thank You, Mr. Falker once from beginning to end

WHY DO READERS IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR’S MESSAGE?

It is important for readers to think about the author's message in order to understand the purpose of the book. When an author decides to write a book, it is usually because they want to share information or a story with readers. When you read fiction (stories that are not real), the author usually includes a message or lesson that they want their reader to think about. On the other hand, when you read nonfiction (books about real people and events), the author is answering questions on a specific topic. Sometimes an author might have more than one message. You know that you have understood the book when you identify the author's message. Now it’s your turn to identify the author’s message. Have fun thinking through reading!
Tips for Identifying the Author's Message

When you are thinking about the author's message, try to think about the reason why the author wrote the book. What does the author want you to think about? Is there a lesson in the book? Usually the lessons in the book are the same as the author’s message.
IDENTIFY THE AUTHOR’S MESSAGE

What do you think the author wanted you to think about while reading this book? What did you learn from reading this book? Make sure you support your answer with examples from the book.

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