

Intellectual Disability: Riding the Bus with My Sister (Non-Fiction) Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Gain insight into the life an individual with an intellectual disability and common perceptions and treatment by family members and individuals in the community.

Synopsis

Much to Rachel Simon's exasperation, her sister Beth loved to spend her days riding the city bus. When Beth, who had an intellectual disability, asked Rachel to ride the bus with her, Rachel reluctantly agreed. However, the experience quickly transformed from a family obligation to a journey of discovery.

Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.

Title: *Riding the Bus with My Sister* (2002)

Author: Rachel Simon

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company • Boston, MA

For Your Information

Individuals with an intellectual disability (ID) often exhibit impairments in cognitive functioning, memory, decision-making skills, adaptive behavior, independent living skills, interpersonal skills, and communication. To learn more about intellectual disabilities, visit:

- [Intellectual Disability](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [Intellectual Disability](#) (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Describe Beth's life.
2. Why did Rachel start riding the bus with her sister?
3. How did people on the bus treat Beth?
4. In what ways did Rachel treat Beth the same as everyone else?
5. Who is your favorite driver and why?
6. In your opinion, how does Beth's family feel about her disability? Are they embarrassed? Pragmatic? Something else entirely? Explain.