



Intellectual Disability: Riding the Bus with My Sister (Book)

Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

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. In the end, Rachel learned more about herself and formed a closer relationship with Beth.

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

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, is Beth's family embarrassed by her disability or are they just realistic?