

***Reading For Comprehension Series***  
***By Lee Ann Berg***

***Wonderstruck***

A Novel in Words and Pictures

By Brian Selznick

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Scholastic Press New York

“Set fifty years apart, these two independent stories—Ben’s told in words, Rose’s in pictures—weave back and forth with mesmerizing symmetry. How they will unfold and ultimately intertwine will surprise you, challenge you, and leave you breathless with wonder.” Quoted from the inside jacket of the hardback cover of the published book.

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Reading For Comprehension Series Bundle  
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# **WONDERSTRUCK**

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## **Teacher’s Guide**

**Please note:** The first number in parenthesis following a vocabulary word indicates the approximate grade level at which the student should know the definition of the word while the following number indicates the page on which the word was found. (Word grade placement is per *EDL Core Vocabularies in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies, 1989.*)

The page number of a vocabulary word or the range of page numbers may not correspond to the published text of the book you are using. If that is the case, you will find the vocabulary word and/or the basis for the comprehension questions and answers on pages that are approximately the same as those used in creating this study guide.

And the answers to the comprehension questions are not always written in complete sentences. The answers have sometimes been made in shortened phrases which make the answers easier to find as well as limiting the space needed to give the answers.

## Note:

**This novel has been written and pictured in three parts. Ben's story in text and *Rose's story in pictures* are told by telling first one story in text and then the other story in pictures. The following questions follow the progression of the published book.**

**Gunflint Lake, Minnesota June 1977  
and  
Hoboken, New Jersey October 1927**

## **PART ONE Pp. 16-225**

### **Vocabulary List with Definitions** (grade appropriate #, page where word is found)

- scavenged** (10,19) to collecting, eating or disposing of waste or refuse  
**subsided** (10, 20) abate; wane; slacken  
**fascinated** (6, 21) enthralled; spellbound; awestruck; captivated  
**beckoned** (6, 68) summoned or signaled by a nod or gesture  
**peculiar** (5, 68) odd; strange; weird; unusual  
**unclasped** (, 85) to open  
**curator** (, 98) custodian especially one in charge of a museum or zoo  
**momentarily** (9+, 126) for a moment; briefly; temporarily  
**illuminating** (8, 126) enlightening; revealing  
**indentation** (6+, 126) notch; groove  
**fantasy** (8, 134) flight of imagination; vision; desire

### **Comprehension Questions**

#### **Ben Pp. 16-27**

- 1. What disability did Ben Wilson have? P. 16** He had been born deaf in one ear.
- 2. How did Ben use his disability to his advantage? Pp. 17** He could sleep on his good ear and not hear the radio Robby insisted on leaving on all night. Also Ben could tune out a teacher when he wanted to do so.

- 3. What conversation did Ben overhear between his Aunt Jenny and Uncle Steve that worried him? Pp. 18-19** They were discussing what they should do about the house Ben and his mother had lived in when she was alive. The house had been built by his mom's grandfather.
- 4. What were some of things Ben kept in a wood box he kept under his sleeping cot? Pp. 20-21** It held his last baby tooth, a plastic game piece, a bird's skull, a fossil, grey stones (ejecta), etc.
- 5. What bizarre thing did Ben's mom allow him to do to his bedroom? Pp. 22-23** She allowed Ben to paint his room black and cover the walls and ceiling with glow-in-the-dark stars.
- 6. Why had Ben come to live with Aunt Jenny and Uncle Steve? Pp. 24-25** His mom had been killed in an accident which happened because of snow and ice and the fact that she had not been wearing her seatbelt.
- 7. What did Ben realize about his mom saying "you wouldn't be lost as long as you could find the North Star?" Pp. 26-27** It wasn't true because what if it was overcast with only a few stars showing.

### **Rose Pp. 28-55**

- 1. Where did Rose's story begin?** Hoboken, New Jersey
- 2. What was Rose doing in her bedroom?** She was tearing out a page from *Moviestar Magazine* so she could add an article to her scrapbook about Lillian Mayhew.
- 3. Who is driving along in a car?** a man
- 4. Where did the car stop, and what was the man doing?** The car stopped at Rose's house, and Rose saw the man walking up to the front door of her house.
- 5. What emotion did Rose project as she watched the man approach the front door?** She had a trapped look. She sat down and wrote "Help" on a piece of paper.
- 6. What did the man do when he reached the front door?** He knocked.

### **Ben Pp. 56-57**

- 1. What would make his mother wake Ben at night to see? P. 56** the northern lights, the aurora borealis
- 2. What made Ben stare in disbelief as he looked out at the stars one night? P. 57** He saw a bright yellow glow from his mom's bedroom which he could see from Robbie's bedroom where Ben slept at night.

**Rose Pp. 58-67**

1. **What did Rose do while the man was entering the house?** She climbed out the window and ran with the note she was carrying which said "Help me."

**Ben Pp. 68-69**

1. **What did Ben do once he saw the light in his mother's bedroom? Pp. 68-69**  
He went to investigate. He was dizzy with fear as he pushed his mom's bedroom door open.

**Rose Pp. 70-83**

1. **What did Rose do once she reached the water's edge?** She made a boat out of the paper she had written on and set it to sail out toward the city.

**Ben Pp. 84-87**

1. **Who did Ben find in his mother's bedroom that night? Pp. 84-85** Ben found his cousin, Janet, smoking his mother's cigarettes, and wearing his mother's clothes. When she saw him she handed him his mother's coffee can with its rainy-day fund.
2. **What did Ben tell Janet when she said to come home with her? Pp. 86-87**  
He said he was home. He also told her that he wasn't going to tell on her for smoking and that he wasn't going home with her just yet. He wanted to stay in his mother's room for awhile.

**Rose Pp. 88-93**

1. **Where was Rose going after she had put the boat in the water?** Maybe she could be going home a different way since the landscape had changed.

**Ben Pp. 94-99**

1. **After Janet left, what did Ben do in his mother's room? Pp. 94-95** He checked out the coffee can money and went through drawers and eventually found an envelope with a small blue book entitled *Wonderstruck*.
2. **What was written in the blue book? Pp. 96-97** a history of museums
3. **What is the job a museum curator? Pp. 98-99** A curator decides what belongs in a museum and how objects will be displayed.
4. **What did the blue book make Ben realize about himself? P. 99** He thought that maybe he was a curator, he liked to collect items.

Sample Pages  
Sample Pages  
Sample Pages  
Sample Pages  
Sample Pages  
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**Student's Guide**

**Note:**

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**Gunflint Lake, Minnesota    June 1977  
and  
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**PART ONE    Pp. 16-225**

**Vocabulary**

scavenged (19)

subsided (20)

fascinated (21)

beckoned (68)

peculiar (68)

unclasped (85)

curator (98)

momentarily (126)

illuminating (126)

indentation (126)

fantasy (134)

**Comprehension Questions**

**Ben Pp. 16-27**

1. What disability did Ben Wilson have? P. 16
2. How did Ben use his disability to his advantage? Pp. 17

3. What conversation did Ben overhear between his Aunt Jenny and Uncle Steve that worried him? Pp. 18-19
4. What were some of things Ben kept in a wood box he kept under his sleeping cot? Pp. 20-21
5. What bizarre thing did Ben's mom allow him to do to his bedroom? Pp. 22-23
6. Why had Ben come to live with Aunt Jenny and Uncle Steve? Pp. 24-25
7. What did Ben realize about his mom saying "you wouldn't be lost as long as you could find the North Star?" Pp. 26-27

**Rose Pp. 28-55**

1. *Where did Rose's story begin?*
2. *What was Rose doing in her bedroom?*
3. *Who is driving along in a car?*
4. *Where did the car stop, and what was the man doing?*
5. *What emotion did Rose project as she watched the man approach the front door?*
6. *What did the man do when he reached the front door?*

**Ben Pp. 56-57**

1. What would make his mother wake Ben at night to see? P. 56
2. What made Ben stare in disbelief as he looked out at the stars one night? P. 57



***Rose Pp. 58-67***

1. *What did Rose do while the man was entering the house?*

**Ben Pp. 68-69**

1. What did Ben do once he saw the light in his mother's bedroom? Pp. 68-69

***Rose Pp. 70-83***

1. *What did Rose do once she reached the water's edge?*

**Ben Pp. 84-87**

1. Who did Ben find in his mother's bedroom that night? Pp. 84-85
2. What did Ben tell Janet when she said to come home with her? Pp. 86-87

***Rose Pp. 88-93***

1. *Where was Rose going after she had put the boat in the water?*

**Ben Pp. 94-99**

1. After Janet left, what did Ben do in his mother's room? Pp. 94-95
2. What was written in the blue book? Pp. 96-97
3. What is the job a museum curator? Pp. 98-99
4. What did the blue book make Ben realize about himself? P. 99

Sample Pages

**Student's Workbook**

**Ben's story in text and *Rose's story in pictures* follow the progression of the published book.**

**PART ONE Pp. 16-225**

**Vocabulary**

- scavenged (19) \_\_\_\_\_
- subsided (20) \_\_\_\_\_
- fascinated (21) \_\_\_\_\_
- beckoned (68) \_\_\_\_\_
- peculiar (68) \_\_\_\_\_
- momentarily (126) \_\_\_\_\_
- illuminating (126) \_\_\_\_\_
- indentation (126) \_\_\_\_\_
- fantasy (134) \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension Questions**

**Ben Pp. 16-27**

1. What disability did Ben Wilson have? P. 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
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\_\_\_\_\_
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\_\_\_\_\_

5. What bizarre thing did Ben's mom allow him to do to his bedroom? Pp. 22-23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Where did Rose's story begin? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Who is driving along in a car? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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1. After Janet left, what did Ben do in his mother's room? Pp. 94-95 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was written in the blue book? Pp. 96-97 \_\_\_\_\_

## Workbook Answer Key

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**5. What bizarre thing did Ben's mom allow him to do to his bedroom? Pp. 22-23**

She allowed Ben to paint his room black and cover the walls and ceiling with glow-in-the-dark stars.

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His mom had been killed in an accident.

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She had a trapped look. She sat down and wrote "Help" on a piece of paper.

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**Ben Pp. 56-57**

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1. **Where was Rose going after she had put the boat in the water?** Maybe she could be going home a different way since the landscape had changed.

**Ben Pp. 94-99**

1. **After Janet left, what did Ben do in his mother's room?** Pp. 94-95 He checked out the coffee can money and went through drawers and eventually found an envelope with a small blue book entitled *Wonderstruck*.
2. **What was written in the blue book?** Pp. 96-97 a history of museums

Sample Pages

**Key Questions**

### Key Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1. What conversation did Ben overhear between his Aunt Jenny and Uncle Steve that worried him? Pp. 18-19

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2. What made Ben stare in disbelief as looked out at the stars one night? P. 57

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3. How did museums start so very small and become huge? P. 108

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4. How did Ben lose his money? P. 265

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5. When Ben looked in his suitcase, what did he discover was missing? P. 359

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6. Where did Jamie tell Ben to spend the night? P. 385 \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What did Jamie's note reveal to Ben about Jamie? Pp. 424-425 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Why had Jamie lied to Ben through omission about the Kincaid bookstore moving the business to another location? Pp. 484-485

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9. Who helped Rose get away from her father? P. 545 \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What kinds of mementos had Rose put in the NYC Panorama about Danny?  
Pp. 574-575

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## Key Questions Answer Key

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer these questions in complete sentences.

1. What conversation did Ben overhear between his Aunt Jenny and Uncle Steve that worried him? Pp. 18-19

**They were discussing what they should do about the house Ben and his mother had lived in when she was alive. The house had been built by his mom's grandfather.**

2. What made Ben stare in disbelief as looked out at the stars one night? P. 57

**He saw a bright yellow glow from his mom's bedroom which he could see from Robbie's bedroom where Ben slept at night.**

3. How did museums start out so very small and become the huge building they became? P. 108

**They started out as pieces of furniture called Cabinets of Wonder housing collections. Collections grew to become rooms, and then the rooms became special buildings to house collections and displays.**

4. How did Ben lose his money? P. 265

**Ben needed to get his money out of his back pocket to buy a hot dog. He had his money in his hand when a hand darted out.**

5. When Ben looked in his suitcase, what did he discover was missing? P. 359

**His own museum box was not in his suitcase. It was missing.**

6. Where did Jamie tell Ben to spend the night? P. 385

**He told him to stay in the storage room. Jamie said he would be back tomorrow. Jamie told Ben where the bathroom was and how to watch out for the night watchman.**

7. What did Jamie's note reveal to Ben about Jamie? Pp. 424-425

**Jamie wrote that no one liked what he liked not even his dad who worked at the museum. He had never shown the museum to anyone before. He had no one who cared, not even his father.**

8. Why had Jamie lied to Ben through omission about the Kincaid bookstore moving the business to another location? Pp. 484-485

**Jamie said if Ben found his father, Ben would leave and go to Gunflint Lake and never come to the museum again.**

9. Who helped Rose get away from her father? P. 545

**Walter, Rose's brother, convinced their divorced parents that Rose needed to go to a school where everyone was deaf.**

10. What kinds of mementos had Rose put in the NYC Panorama about Danny?  
Pp. 574-575

**The hospital where he was born was part of the exhibit as well as his school. His pencil had been placed in the school. There was a lucky penny he had found in Central Park.**

# Vocabulary Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the included word list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Comprehension Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Answer five comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



## Vocabulary and Comprehension Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following blanks to list and define vocabulary words chosen from the word list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer three comprehension questions in complete sentences.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_