



Ramona and Her Mother

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About The Book:

How come nobody ever calls me my mother's girl? thinks Ramona. How come Willa Jean gets to tear through a box of tissues, make a dreadful mess, disrupt Mrs. Quimby's brunch, and still be the center of attention—and her grandmother's pet?

When Ramona finally has her mother to herself, her plan to make slacks for her stuffed elephant goes wrong, and Ramona is not pleased. When Ramona satisfies a lifelong urge to squeeze all the toothpaste out of a new economy-size tube, Mother is not pleased. All Ramona really wants is to twitch her nose and be her mother's little rabbit, warm and snug and loved like the bears and bunnies in the books her mother used to read to her at bedtime. Ramona may not be as small as Willa Jean anymore, but that doesn't mean she isn't her mother's girl.

Questions For Discussion:

1. The Quimbys have a brunch to celebrate Mr. Quimby's new job and Howie's little sister Willa Jean is among the guests. Why does Ramona decide to give her a present? What do you think of Ramona's choice of a present? What do you think of Willa Jean's behavior? Why do some of the guests say that she reminds them of Ramona at that age? When another guest says Beezus is her mother's daughter how does that make Ramona feel?
2. How does life in the Quimby household change after Mr. Quimby goes to work at the Shop-Rite? Does Mr. Quimby like his new job?
3. When Ramona tries to join Mrs. Quimby and Beezus at sewing, the pants she tries to make her stuffed elephant are a big disappointment to her. What activity does Ramona come up with to console herself—something she's always wanted to do? Why does she tell her mother, "The devil made me do it" and what is Mrs. Quimby's reaction?
4. In the chapter called "The Great Hair Argument" why does Beezus call her mother old-fashioned when Mrs. Quimby says that how you look is not as important as how you behave?
5. Beezus says that she is tired of being good old sensible Beezus and her mother answers that she, too, is tired of being sensible all the time. Why is this surprising? How does this information make Ramona feel towards her mother?
6. Spelling is her weak point in school, but Mrs. Rudge says there's no such word as can't. Why is this confusing to Ramona? What does Mrs. Rudge mean?
7. Ramona certainly has a lively imagination! How is it that wanting her mother to love her like a little rabbit leads to Ramona wearing her new pajamas to school and pretending to be a fireman? She has also been twitching her nose lately. How is this behavior misinterpreted by her teacher and her parents?
8. What is her parents' reaction when Ramona announces that she is going to run away? Why do you think they react this way? What does Ramona come to understand from this experience? What are the words Ramona has been longing to hear her mother say?