



Ramona the Pest

By Beverly Cleary
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About The Book:

It is the greatest day of Ramona's life. She is in kindergarten and she loves her teacher, Miss Binney. She likes a little boy named Davy so much she wants to kiss him. She's fascinated by Susan's beautiful reddish brown curls, which bounce like springs when she runs. Ramona is thrilled about all the new things to see.

So how in the world does Ramona get into trouble? Why is she sitting on a bench when the rest of the class is playing Gray Duck? Why does Davy run as fast as he can when Ramona comes near him? And how does Ramona disrupt the whole class during rest time? Well, anyone who knows Ramona knows that she is never a pest on purpose.

Discussion Questions:

1. There are often misunderstandings between Ramona and the rest of the world. Sometimes the misunderstandings have to do with words or expressions that adults use; sometimes other people, including other kids, just don't see things the same way Ramona does. What examples of this do you remember from the book? Can you understand Ramona's point of view?
2. Are Ramona and Howie friends? Ramona and Davy? Ramona and Susan? Why or why not?
3. Ramona didn't like her first day of kindergarten as much as she had thought she would. Do you remember your first day of school? Was it better or worse than you had imagined it would be?
4. Ramona had learned in nursery school that sharing meant that "she had to share something of her own that she did not want to share or she had to share something that belonged to someone else that she did not want to share either." When the mothers decide that Ramona and Howie should share the red ribbon the teacher puts on Howie's stuffed rabbit, is this a good solution? How do Ramona and Howie resolve the conflict themselves and come to like each other better in the process?
5. Why does Ramona wear her worm "engagement ring" on the days her mother makes her wear Howie's old rainboots? Has your mother ever made you wear something you didn't want to wear to school? What was your reaction—A Great Big Noisy Fuss?
6. Does Ramona remind you of someone you know? Is Ramona a pest? Why or why not?
7. Why does Ramona start to feel a little strange while wearing her Halloween costume? How does she finally solve the problem?
8. While she loves her teacher, Miss Binney, Ramona briefly becomes a kindergarten dropout. Do you remember why? How does she like staying home from school every day?