



Ramona's World

By Beverly Cleary
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Introduction:

Ramona is a fourth grader now, with brown hair, brown eyes, no cavities, and a new best friend! Mrs. Meacham, Ramona's teacher, says learning is fun in the fourth grade, but Ramona has better things to do than work on spelling — although she can't think of what. Beezus is busy becoming a teenager: having her ears pierced and going to her first party with dancing. That gives Ramona a chance to try out baby sitting and even having a bit of a crush on a boy. As her baby sister Roberta's role model, Ramona teaches her to stick out her tongue and then realizes that Roberta now has a will of her own, and she's growing up — just like Ramona.

Discussion Questions:

1. While the grown-up Quimbys and the Kushners, Susan's parents, are friends, Ramona Quimby and Susan Kushner are not friends. Why not?
2. The new fourth grader at Ramona's bus stop is Daisy Kidd, with long blond hair and braces on her teeth. She and Ramona share parts of their lunch and are on their way to becoming best friends. Why is it so easy for Ramona to be friends with Daisy?
3. When Ramona thinks about herself and her sister Beezus growing up, she feels as if she were reading a good book and she wants to know what will happen next. Have you ever had such a feeling?
4. In the chapter called "The Princess and the Witch" whose fault is it when Ramona falls through the ceiling at Daisy Kidd's house? Why does Ramona think she's going to lose her best friend? Is there a happy ending to this incident?
5. When the photographer taking her school picture tells Ramona to "Say peas," she thinks of her baby sister spitting gooshy, smelly peas, and she makes a face that ruins her picture. Everyone laughs, and her father jokes that the picture captures the real Ramona. But later Beezus suggest that picture will make the perfect valentine to give the boy Ramona calls Yard Ape. Why? What do you think of Yard Ape's Valentine's Day poem for Ramona: "If you are eating peas/Think of me before you sneeze?"
6. Now that Ramona is in the fourth grade her parents often tell her to "cope" when she wants help. What do Mr. and Mrs. Quimby mean by that? Why is it important for fourth grade Ramona to "cope?"
7. The signs of Ramona's being "a potential grown-up" are becoming more apparent as Ramona discovers she is a role model for her sister Roberta, tries baby and cat sitting, and even starts to feel a little sorry for Susan. In what ways do you think Ramona will change as she grows up? In what ways will she remain the same?
8. Do you agree with Mrs. Quimby's book that says "Ten is the nicest year of growing up?" Why or why not?