

IN THE CLASSROOM WITH BEVERLY CLEARY'S RAMONA BOOKS

RAMONA'S LASTING APPEAL

Ramona Quimby has been a favorite character for several generations of readers. Stories about Ramona continue to appeal to children because they provide comfort, humor, and insight as well as entertainment. Many people feel they, or someone they know, have a little, or maybe a whole lot, of Ramona in them. Readers of all ages can relate to Ramona because she experiences the same emotions—fears, disappointment, anger, confusion, joy—that most children experience.

Ramona is not always a perfect child, but her foibles make her an endearing character. She gets angry and frustrated, but she struggles to learn the self-control and patience her parents and teachers expect. Her desire for attention and her feelings of embarrassment and confusion cause many readers to identify with her; and her resilience, creativity, and pure love of life make

her someone to be admired, even emulated. Some of the situations in which Ramona finds herself evoke sympathy, while others make us laugh out loud.

Ramona, a real child who seeks approval, would be pleased to know so many children like her for who she is and what she does. She would be gratified that her books provide for those grown-ups who are paying attention handy tips on how to be good parents and teachers. Knowing children and adults alike enjoy spending time with her in the uncommonly common world Beverly Cleary has created for them to share with her would undoubtedly bring Ramona the same deep satisfaction we derive from reading her books.



SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS

Beverly Cleary presents five years of Ramona's life in eight delightful chapter books. In *Beezus and Ramona*, Beezus, who is just turning ten, finds four-year-old Ramona an exasperating little sister who invites her nursery school friends to an unplanned party, takes one bite out of each apple in the box, and spoils her birthday cake—twice. Ramona becomes the focus of Cleary's next book, *Ramona the Pest*, in which Ramona goes to kindergarten. She is disappointed when they do not learn to read the first day and when the teacher cannot tell her how Mike Mulligan went to the bathroom when he was digging the basement of the town hall. Getting new red rain boots and being the "baddest witch in the world" for Halloween help, but Ramona becomes a temporary kindergarten dropout when she succumbs to temptation and pulls Susan's enticingly springy curls.

First grade gets off to a bad start in *Ramona the Brave* when the class teases Ramona for exaggerating about the hole the men "chopped" in her house for the extension that will be her new room. This year she must adjust to her liberated mother working part-time, and, as it turns out, the fear of sleeping alone in her new room. Seemingly perfect Susan still annoys Ramona, and Mrs. Griggs does not seem to like her. However, learning to read excites Ramona, making her year in first grade worthwhile after all. In *Ramona and Her Father*, Ramona is starting second grade when Mr. Quimby loses his job. Ramona has more time with her father now, but she is worried because her unemployed father is often cross, her mother is anxious about money, and Beezus, who has reached a difficult age, is frequently disagreeable. Ramona is determined to save her father's life by helping him quit smoking. When Mr. Quimby finds another job, Ramona's family seems to be returning to the family she is used to.

Ramona and Her Mother begins on New Year's Day with a celebration of Mr. Quimby's new job. Mrs. Quimby continues to work, so Howie's grandmother looks after Ramona, who is now in the second half of second grade. Ramona spends a lot of time longing to be her mother's girl, as people say Beezus is, and wanting her mother to love her like a little rabbit. She practices twitching her nose frequently, but ultimately decides to run away from home. When her mother tells her she could not get along without her, Ramona's hurt feelings dissolve, and she is content once again. Ramona starts third grade in *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*. This year she rides the bus across town to Cedarhurst Primary School. Anxious that her father find a job he likes, Ramona is happy he has returned to college and is studying to become an art teacher. She tries to uphold her responsibility to the family by being nice to Willa Jean while Howie's grandmother watches them after school. The Quimbys continue to have their ups and downs, but they remain a nice family that sticks together, even on dreary, rainy days.

Ramona's resolve to be helpful with Willa Jean crumbles in *Ramona Forever* when Ramona realizes that Howie's grandmother, Mrs. Kemp, truly does not like her. The Quimbys decide Beezus and Ramona can stay by themselves after school.

(SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS CONTINUED)

Ramona initially dislikes Howie's uncle Hobart when he returns to Portland, and she is dismayed when he and her aunt Beatrice announce marriage plans. At the wedding, she and Uncle Hobart make their peace, and Ramona warms to Mrs. Kemp when she compliments Ramona's appearance and behavior. Ramona now has a new uncle, and the birth of the fifth Quimby, Roberta, expands Ramona's happy family even more. In her new book, *Ramona's World*, Beverly Cleary brings Ramona's life full circle. Ramona is now an older sister, and she is the same age Beezus was in the first book, *Beezus and Ramona*. Beezus, who is in high school, continues to provide Ramona with glimpses of what lies ahead for her. Their father, although not an art teacher, has a job that supports his family and is once again good-natured and helpful. With a baby in the house, Ramona's mother no longer works outside the home, which allows Ramona more of the cozy mother/daughter moments she cherishes. Secure in her own world, Ramona understands that her old rival Susan is an unhappy child who feels she is expected to be perfect and envies Ramona because she is not perfect and everyone likes her anyway. Ramona is older and wiser than she was six years ago, but she is certainly not sadder. She is a happy child eager to enter the tenth, or zero-teenth, year of her exciting life.

RAMONA'S PERSONALITY

Ramona is the kind of girl who raises a great big noisy fuss with her family when she doesn't get what she wants—a necessary action when she was the youngest person in the family and on the block. She is curious, finding life interesting and always wanting to discover what will happen next. She is often impatient and confused by misunderstandings. Things don't always work as Ramona expects they will, but she is a lively, imaginative child with commendable problem-solving skills. Although she loves to be the center of attention, she doesn't like others to be amused by her when she is being serious. However, she sometimes tries to be amusing to divert family tensions. Ramona frequently experiences disappointments, which makes growing up difficult, but she keeps trying.

RAMONA'S FAMILY

Beezus

Beezus, Ramona's older sister, is neat, studious, responsible, and above all, sensible. She is the opposite of Ramona in many ways. Although Beezus is frequently annoyed with Ramona (and vice versa), she takes care of her little sister, defending and supporting her when needed. Named after her favorite aunt, Beezus wants to be just like Aunt Beatrice when she grows up. As Beezus experiences the normal growing pains of adolescence, she becomes self-conscious about her appearance and disagreeable at times. Ramona is fascinated by the changes in Beezus. Their parents are generally understanding and help Beezus through her difficult years.



Parents

In the first books, Dorothy Quimby is a stay-at-home mom, but in *Ramona the Brave*, she takes a part-time job as a doctor's receptionist. She no longer bakes cookies for after-school snacks, but she still manages to make costumes, buy shoes, and attend school meetings for her daughters. She is a sensible sort of mother with the type of natural appearance and fresh smell Ramona thinks all mothers should have. The Quimbys are not poor, but they do struggle to make ends meet at times, and Dorothy Quimby is adept at buying food on special and altering the girls' clothing. When her third daughter is born, Dorothy joins a book club to keep her mind stimulated while she works at home raising her daughters.

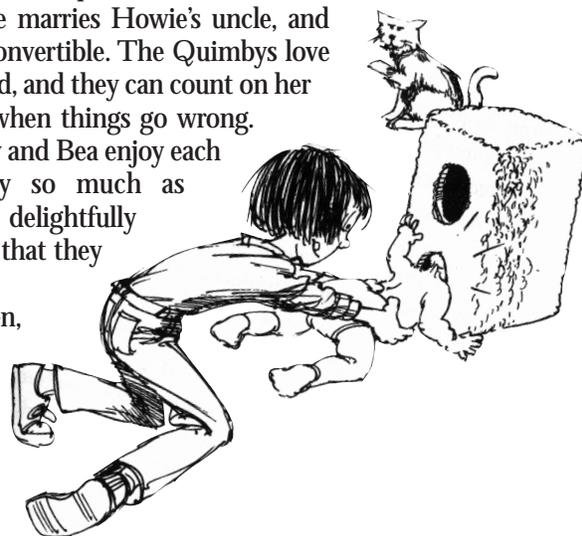
Bob Quimby works in an office for a van-and-storage company in the first three books. In *Ramona and Her Father*, he is unemployed. He eventually takes a job as a grocery checker but dislikes it intensely. Because he enjoys art, he returns to college to get a teaching degree and become an art teacher. When he does not find a suitable teaching position, he takes a job as a grocery store manager and likes it well enough. A good-natured man who often jokes and sings, he is an understanding father who usually knows how to quell Ramona's fears and insecurities. When Ramona asks him when they will be a happy family, he tells her they already are a happy family; a few quarrels and a little bickering are to be expected, even in a happy family like theirs.

Picky-picky

Picky-picky is the Quimby's grouchy old cat. He enjoys melon rind and has even been known to eat raw pumpkin. He dislikes cheap cat food like Puss-puddy, but he will eat it if he has to. Picky-picky does not like Ramona because she was so noisy when she was little. Picky-picky's rejection dismays Ramona, but as she grows older, he rewards her for being calmer by letting her pet him sometimes.

Aunt Beatrice

Aunt Beatrice, Dorothy Quimby's younger sister, is an elementary school teacher who truly understands children. Pretty, young, and cheerful, she lives in an apartment house with an elevator until she marries Howie's uncle, and drives a yellow convertible. The Quimbys love having her around, and they can count on her to save the day when things go wrong. Because Dorothy and Bea enjoy each other's company so much as adults, Beezus is delightfully shocked to learn that they quarreled when they were children, just as Beezus and Ramona do now.





THE WORLD OF RAMONA

RAMONA'S NEIGHBORHOOD AND BEYOND

Ramona lives on Klickitat Street in Portland, Oregon, and attends Glenwood School through second grade. The grocery store that is being built on the vacant lot across the street from the school while Ramona is in kindergarten creates much excitement—as well as mud. Ramona and her friends walk to school and play on the block and at Glenwood Park. When she is in third grade, Ramona's world expands because the school boundaries have changed, and she now takes the bus to Cedarhurst Primary School. When she rides the school bus to the home of her new friend Daisy, she realizes she is venturing farther than she ever has before without an adult.

RAMONA'S FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Howie Kemp, son of her mother's friend, is Ramona's good friend. He and Ramona enjoy building things together, but his continual refusal to get excited about things makes her furious.

Willa Jean is Howie's messy little sister, who people say reminds them of Ramona when she was little, much to Ramona's chagrin.

Davy (in-the-Gravy) is a gentle boy who struggles with his schoolwork and whom Ramona longs to kiss so much that she chases him every day her first few years of school.

Susan (Snoozin') with the boing-boing curls, Ramona's nemesis throughout many school years, exasperates Ramona with her goody-goody smugness.

Danny (Yard Ape), a new classmate in the third grade, calls Ramona Superfoot and Egghead, but she doesn't mind because she secretly likes him.

Daisy, who moves to Portland when Ramona is in fourth grade, becomes Ramona's kind, loyal best friend.

Henry Huggins and his dog, **Ribsy**, are actually Beezus's friends, but Ramona vows to marry Henry after he rescues her and her red rain boots from the mud puddle.

RAMONA'S TEACHERS

A bright, creative child who wants to please her teacher but who also enjoys the attention of her peers, Ramona experiences some frustrations adjusting to school. She begins kindergarten wanting "so much to be loved by her pretty new teacher" that her heart fills with joy when Miss Binney praises the way Ramona makes her letter Q's. Things do not go so well with her first-grade teacher, Mrs. Griggs, who does not seem to understand Ramona's brand of creativity. As a second grader, Ramona is delighted to learn that Mrs. Rudge considers her "one of her little sparklers who made teaching interesting." But when her third-grade teacher, Mrs. Whaley, calls her a show-off and a nuisance, Ramona is hurt and angry. Later, Ramona and Mrs. Whaley clear up their misunderstanding, and Ramona feels better about life in the third grade. Ramona's fourth-grade teacher, eagle-eyed Mrs. Meacham, is a little too keen on spelling for Ramona's taste, but she has learned how to survive various types of teachers after all these years.

RAMONA'S FASCINATION AND FRUSTRATION WITH LANGUAGE

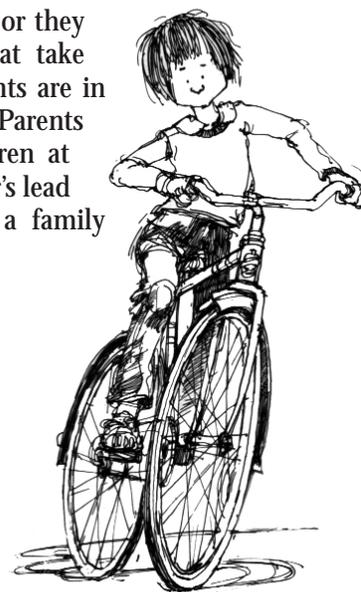
Ramona's frustrations with words begin in kindergarten when Miss Binney tells her to "sit here for the present" and teaches her a song about the "dawnzer lee light." Her puzzlement continues as she wonders if Miss Binney's mother is coming to take Miss Binney home because Miss Binney tells the class, "we must rest so we will not be tired when our mothers come to take us home." But Ramona loves the sound of the words "baddest witch in the world" and "which witch." Unfortunately, she gets in trouble for sticking out her tongue to show the neighbor woman the cat has not got her tongue. In *Ramona the Brave*, Ramona likes the concept of word-attacking and thinks as she reads to herself, "Pow! I got you, fire engine. Monkey. Pow! I got you, monkey." Ramona is puzzled when her second-grade teacher, Mrs. Rudge, tells her, "There's no such word as can't." The illogic of Mrs. Rudge's statement makes it untrue and leaves Ramona unsettled. However, when Ramona's father says his grandmother had to "scrimp and pinch to make ends meet," Ramona likes the sound of the words and joyfully uses them to explain why she cannot get her hair cut professionally. Later she muses about why words don't always mean what they should. Picky-picky, for example, is not a carpet, even though he is a pet that rides in a car.

Because Beverly Cleary understands that, like Ramona, other children enjoy words, she does not hesitate to put big words in her stories, such as enticingly, trundled, indignant, ferocious, anguished, stolidly, predicament, infuriating, reluctance, companionable, virtuously, defiant, expedition, encumbered, and exasperation.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSROOM USE

Read-Alouds

The Ramona books are wonderful read-alouds. Teachers may want to read all eight books to the class over the course of the year, or they may decide to select the books that take place in the same grade their students are in and read those to the whole class. Parents interested in reading to their children at home may want to follow the teacher's lead and make sharing Ramona books a family activity.



THE WORLD OF RAMONA

(CONTINUED)

Independent Reading

Mrs. Whaley, Ramona's third-grade teacher in *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, gives the class DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) or Sustained Silent Reading time. Ramona enjoys reading independently without having to write summaries or list vocabulary words. Students might think it fun to have the option of reading books about Ramona during Sustained Silent Reading periods in their classes.

Literature Circles

Students often like to work in small groups. Arrange for four to six students to meet as a literature circle and discuss books they have read about Ramona. Each literature circle could prepare a project based on its book(s) to present to the class.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Reading

"I can't read and it isn't fair," protests Ramona in *Beezus and Ramona* when Beezus refuses to read to her all the time. Throughout the books, Ramona's love affair with books grows. As a preschooler, her favorite picture books are about steam shovels with lots of noises and fairy tales with witches, goblins, or ogres. At night, however, she prefers cozy stories about nice bears and bunnies. When Ramona daydreams about having her mother all to herself in *Ramona and Her Mother*, she imagines her mother selecting books from her bookcase that she enjoyed hearing as a child. Using the descriptions Cleary provides throughout the various Ramona books, ask students to figure out what books might be in Ramona's bookcase. It might be fun to set up a Ramona bookcase in the classroom and invite students to read the books Ramona loves.

In *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, Ramona is pleased that she can now read chapter books and is delighted to discover that she can read the menu at Whopperburger without relying on the pictures. Students might enjoy reflecting upon their experiences learning to read and trying to remember what it was like not knowing how to make sense of the printed word.

Creative Writing

In *Ramona and Her Father*, Beezus, who dreads creative writing because she does not believe she is imaginative, is relieved when the assignment is to "interview an old person and ask questions about something they did when they were our age." The interviews written by Beezus's classmates will be compiled into a class book. Consider making this same assignment for your students.

Throughout the books, Mr. Quimby spouts wise sayings he learned from his grandmother. Encourage students to compile the wise sayings of Mr. Quimby's grandmother and discuss what they mean. Students might want to add some of their family sayings to the collection and then write some of their own.

Spelling

In fourth grade, Ramona is faced with the daunting task of improving her spelling. She finds it tedious to look up words and appreciates people who know what she means and let misspelled words pass. Unfortunately, Mrs. Meacham is a teacher who demands correct spelling and precision of language. She is proud of Ramona and Daisy when they reprimand a certified public accountant for using "gonna" and "shoulda" in an advertisement. Students might want to bring in examples of misspelled or nonexistent words they find in the newspaper or elsewhere.

Art

Ramona enjoys crayoning because it makes her troubles fade. She draws unusually well, and she can make almost anything out of paper, crayons, staples, and Scotch tape. She and her father work on drawing the longest picture in the world on a roll of shelf paper. They draw the state of Oregon by choosing important landmarks such as the interstate highway and Mount Hood. Students might want to take on this same task using their own state. What landmarks would they select for their pictures?

Drama

Beginning in *Ramona the Pest*, Ramona notices many things about grown-ups. For example, she can't understand why grown-ups think children grow up quickly when she thinks growing up is the slowest process there is, and she is infuriated when adults talk about her in front of her. Her general observation is that most grown-ups don't understand children's feelings, and she is happy when she finds one who does—at least sometimes. Drawing on Ramona's running commentary about grown-ups throughout the eight books, it might be fun for readers to make a list of Ramona's rules for how grown-ups should behave and create a dramatic presentation designed to inspire adults to behave better.

Class Project

After the class has read one or more Ramona books, suggest they create a Ramona Festival in which they display projects and presentations based on the book(s).

TALKING WITH BEVERLY CLEARY



What inspired you to create the character of Ramona?

Well, she was really an accidental character. When I was writing *Henry Huggins*, it occurred to me that all the children appeared to be only children. I thought I should put somebody else in, so I was starting to put in a little sister and someone called out to a neighbor who was named Ramona, so I just called Beezus's little sister Ramona. She has continued to grow in the books, somewhat to my surprise. I hadn't really intended to write so much about her, but there she was. She kept hanging around, and I kept having Ramona ideas.

How do you approach the writing of a Ramona book?

Oh, very messily. I usually start with a couple of ideas, not necessarily at the beginning of the book, and I just write. Sometimes I have to go back and figure out how a character got to a particular point. In *Ramona and Her Father*, I wrote the part

about the sheep costume last. Actually, I was asked to write a Christmas story about Ramona for one of the women's magazines. I did this, and called it "Ramona and the Three Wise Persons." But in writing this story, I was thinking how Ramona got

to the point where she was wearing a sheep costume made from old pajamas. So after that story was published, I wrote how she got to that point.

So in this case, I wrote the last chapter first.

Of course this is against everything people are taught about writing, but I don't believe that outlining works for fiction because if you have it all worked out, it becomes boring. So I just write. I really enjoy revising more than writing. I love to cross

things out and cut a page down to one paragraph. I think sometimes beginning writers are so impressed with what they have written that they can't really judge it. I know I wouldn't want to see

anything published as I wrote it initially because it changes so much in the writing. I revise until a little light bulb clicks off and I know it's done. I just know when it feels right. My first editor told me I was an intuitive writer. I hadn't really thought about myself that way, but I guess she was right.

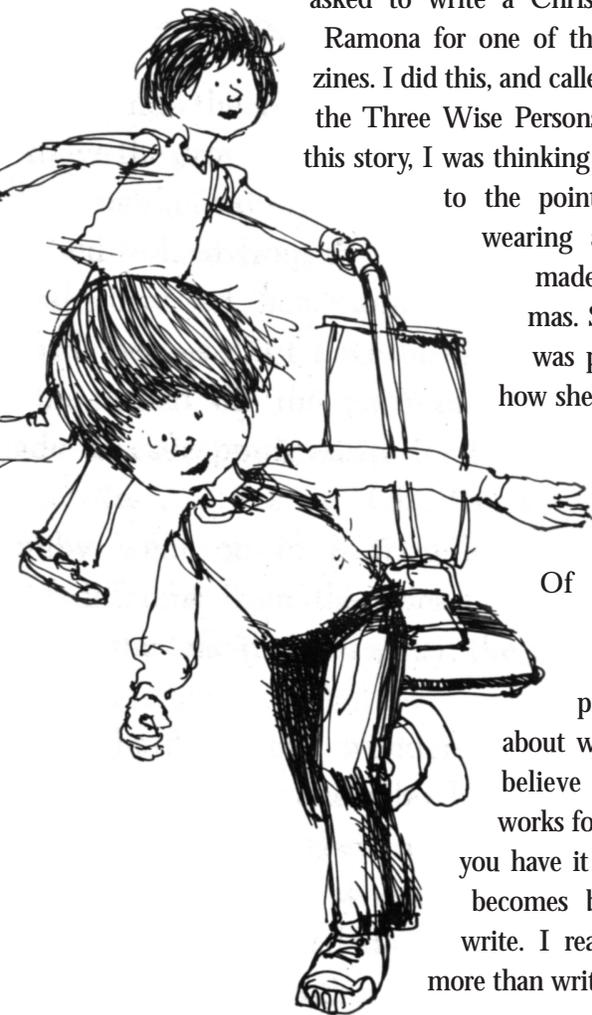
Were you taught creative writing in school?

Oh no, goodness no. I didn't have anything like creative writing until I was in the eighth grade, when the Portland School System changed to the platoon system, and we had some younger teachers who were more creative than those I'd had before. I'm surprised sometimes that I've written anything. We were always supposed to produce things exactly the same, but these younger teachers encouraged creativity. And the school librarian took a special interest in me. She encouraged me by saying that someday I should write for children. It seemed like a good idea.

We had a class called auditorium in which we put on plays or got up and gave current events. I wrote a play about Sacajawea for this class. We had to stand on the stage and whisper so the teacher could hear us in the back of the auditorium. I wish children today had a class like this. As I listen to my grandchildren in their school programs, I notice children don't speak properly—they drop the ends of their sentences.

There is a 13-year gap between the time you wrote *Beezus and Ramona* and its first sequel, *Ramona the Pest*. What made you decide to revisit Ramona?

Oh, I kept thinking about her. She was around in *Ribsy* and in several of the other books about Henry Huggins and his friends, and my editor had wanted me to write a book about her for years. But Ramona would be in kindergarten, and I hadn't gone to kindergarten and didn't know anything about kindergarten. But as the years passed, I had twins who went to kindergarten. Twins are a great advantage because they compare notes at the dinner table. I learned a lot about kindergarten that year and felt I had enough knowledge to write about it. Now the moment was right, so I did it.





You gracefully leap from the fifties to the sixties time period without skipping a beat in Ramona's life. Did you make conscious decisions to help you accomplish this stylistic feat?

No, I don't really think of my stories as taking place in any particular time. However, they do take place in a real neighborhood in which I grew up and which I still

visit. It's really a remarkable neighborhood. It's changed very little since I lived there. It's a very stable place, and I often think about it. I think part of it was that when the houses were built, there was lots of lumber in Oregon, and they're very well built houses. They're not anything lavish; they're just solid houses. It's what the real estate people call a pride-of-ownership neighborhood. I think about this place as I write, but the children in my stories now wear pants if they want to—that wouldn't have been permitted in my day—but those are minor things.

Ramona has been artistically rendered in various art or media forms, including drawing, sculpture, dramatic presentations, and television productions. How do you think Ramona translates into these other media?

Well, when I agreed to the scripts of the little theater productions, I had not realized that they would ever use adults to perform the parts of children. That dismays me because the theater that did this originally used children. It was a children's theater, and I thought this would be for children's theaters in which children acted. I'm really a little surprised to see Ramona being a small adult. I've only seen productions done in Portland, so I don't really know how they turn out elsewhere. There was a production put on recently in New York, and someone sent me a review which was very favorable, but I don't really know if they were children acting in this production or not.

Now about the artwork in the books—when Louis Darling died, it was very hard to find somebody to take his place. But I'm very happy with Alan Tiegreen, and I finally have said let's have one artist do all my covers. So I think that's the way it's going to be from now on. The publishers consult me on every little detail, and I don't know that I'm always the best judge, but they do ask.

I won't let go of the rights for television productions unless I have script approval. There have been companies that have wanted the movie rights to Ramona, but they won't let me have script approval, and so I say no. I did have script approval for the television productions of the Ramona series, which was done by an educational film company. I did a lot of rewriting on the scripts, and I think they turned out as well as can be expected when you consider all the problems involved. They ran out of money and so the whole thing had to be moved to Canada. Fortunately, Cecilie Truit and the director from Lancet Media went there and stayed with the whole production. I thought Sarah Polley was a good little actress, a real little professional. She has recently been singled out for praise due to her performance in the movie *The Sweet Hereafter*.

Would you please tell us a little about the Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden for Children erected in Portland, Oregon's Grant Park?

Oh, well, I was very honored and pleased and very touched at how hard they worked to raise the money. School children would bring coffee cans full of pennies and nickels. It was great fun to go up for the dedication. People tell me that there is lots of daily activity around it. People sit and look at it. Dogs come and look at Ribsy; they get their hackles up, and then they approach his figure.

There was a competition for the selection of the artist. I was asked to choose the winner, and I chose Lee Hunt. She loves the stories and her proposal was quite conscientious. She looked up children's clothing from the 1950s and tried to select things that wouldn't date. She went out and photographed the site and did a lot of things that showed she was truly interested. She worked very hard, and I think she captured the characters quite well as sculptures. She also has some Ramona sculptures in the St. Paul Library Children's Room in Minneapolis, I believe, and some of her Ramona busts are in the public library in Gresham, Oregon. She has been able to capture Ramona's different expressions. In one of them, Ramona is just mad. In another she is smiling.



UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS IN THE RAMONA BOOKS



Beezus and Ramona

- ★ Pretending to be Gretel, Ramona bakes her doll in Beezus's birthday cake.
- ★ Ramona takes one bite out of each apple in the box.
- ★ Ramona invites her friends to a party at her house without asking her mother.



Ramona the Pest

- ★ Ramona gets stuck in the mud, and Henry Huggins must rescue first her and then her new red rain boots from a mud puddle in what is to become the parking lot of the new grocery store.
- ★ Ramona boings Susan's curls.
- ★ Ramona becomes a kindergarten dropout.
- ★ Ramona recommends Beezus get a "dawn-zer" to provide "a lee light" for her to read by.



Ramona the Brave

- ★ Ramona preaches a sermon to the big boys who tease her sister by saying, "Jesus, Beezus."
- ★ Ramona scrunches copycat Susan's owl.
- ★ Ramona announces she is going to say a bad word, and she does—"Guts."
- ★ Ramona bravely wards off an unfriendly dog by throwing her shoe at it.



Ramona and Her Father

- ★ Ramona makes a joyful noise—"Yeep."
- ★ Ramona makes herself a crown of burdock burrs that her father has to cut out of her hair.
- ★ Ramona and Beezus campaign to make their father stop smoking.
- ★ Ramona and Howie clank around the block on tin-can stilts singing, "Ninety-nine Bottles of Beer on the Wall"—all the way from ninety-nine to one.
- ★ Ramona is a black-nosed sheep in the church Christmas program.



Ramona and Her Mother

- ★ Ramona gives Willa Jean her own box of Kleenex to waste.
- ★ Ramona wastes a whole tube of toothpaste.
- ★ Ramona turns herself and Howie blue when she spills a bottle of bluing in the sink.
- ★ Ramona gets a pixie haircut that makes her look like a valentine.
- ★ Ramona yells at her parents through the furnace pipes, commanding them not to fight anymore.



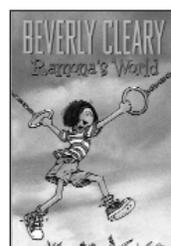
Ramona Quimby, Age 8

- ★ Ramona cracks a raw egg on her head and becomes an egghead.
- ★ Ramona throws up in front of her whole third-grade class.
- ★ Ramona's family eats at Whopperburger and a mysterious stranger pays for their meals.



Ramona Forever

- ★ Ramona and Beezus give Picky-picky a funeral.
- ★ Ramona saves Aunt Bea and Uncle Hobart's wedding by finding the wedding ring.
- ★ Ramona suffers from siblingitis when her baby sister is born.



Ramona's World

- ★ Ramona falls halfway through the lath and plaster floor/ceiling, and Jeremy Kidd has to rescue her.
- ★ Ramona takes care of Clawed, her best friend's cat.
- ★ Ramona receives an original poem from Danny (Yard Ape) for Valentine's Day.
- ★ Ramona has a wonderful tenth birthday, and her mother tells her ten is the nicest age of growing up.

ACCLAIM FOR BEVERLY CLEARY AND HER BOOKS

1978 Newbery Honor Book,
Ramona and Her Father

1982 Newbery Honor Book,
Ramona Quimby, Age 8

1984 Newbery Medal,
Dear Mr. Henshaw

American Library Association's 1975
Laura Ingalls Wilder Award *

Catholic Library Association's
1980 Regina Medal Award *

University of Southern Mississippi's
1982 Silver Medallion *

Children's Book Council
1985 Everychild Award *

Named a 2000 Library of Congress
"Living Legend" *

*All presented in recognition of her
lasting contribution to children's
literature. In addition, Mrs. Cleary's
books have received more than 35
state awards based on the direct votes
of her young readers.

BEVERLY CLEARY TITLES FROM HARPERCOLLINS

<i>Dear Mr. Henshaw</i>	<i>Henry and Beezus</i>	<i>Beezus and Ramona</i>
<i>Ellen Tebbits</i>	<i>Henry and Ribsy</i>	<i>Ramona and Her Father</i>
<i>Emily's Runaway Imagination</i>	<i>Henry and the Clubhouse</i>	<i>Ramona and Her Mother</i>
<i>Fifteen</i>	<i>Henry and the Paper Route</i>	<i>Ramona Forever</i>
<i>Jean and Johnny</i>	<i>Henry Huggins</i>	<i>Ramona Quimby, Age 8</i>
<i>The Luckiest Girl</i>	<i>Ribsy</i>	<i>Ramona the Brave</i>
<i>Mitch and Amy</i>		<i>Ramona the Pest</i>
<i>Muggie Maggie</i>	<i>The Mouse and the Motorcycle</i>	<i>Ramona's World</i>
<i>Otis Spofford</i>	<i>Ralph S. Mouse</i>	
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