

Discussion Guide for *The Paperboy*

Learning Objective:

To practice reading comprehension and critical thinking.

Materials:

- “What Are Your Responsibilities?” Class Activity
- The book *The Paperboy* by Dav Pilkey

Instructions:

1. Read *The Paperboy* aloud to your class.
2. Assess your students by asking them to answer the following:

Before Reading:

What is a paperboy?

Have you ever seen or read a newspaper?

What time of day do you think this story takes place?

During Reading:

The first double-page spread is a “think page.” There are no words, and students must think about what is happening. What do you notice? What do you wonder?

Why is the paperboy waking up so early to deliver newspapers?

Why does the boy quietly go past the rooms and into the garage?

What are some things you think the paperboy thinks about while he delivers newspapers?

On the last page, the boy and his dog are floating into the sky. Did that really happen? What was Dav Pilkey illustrating on this page?

After Reading:

Have you ever gotten up very early in the morning? What was it for? How did you feel?

The paperboy demonstrated great responsibility. What does responsibility mean to you?

How can you show responsibility like the paperboy?

The paperboy is very peaceful while delivering newspapers. What is something that brings you peace?

Does your family read the newspaper? How do you and your family get daily information?

Would you want to deliver newspapers like the paperboy? Why or why not?

3. Share the printout classroom activity as a follow-up to your discussion.

