

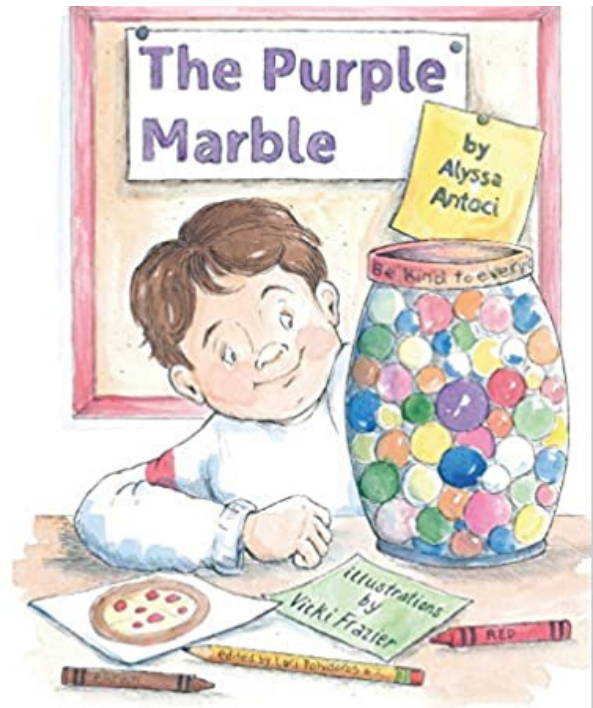


# THE PURPLE MARBLE

ALYSSA ANTOCI

## SUMMARY

Max loves to make silly pizzas with his cousin Sophie and to hang out with his friend Suzi. Then Brody starts to bully him. He calls him a pig and makes piggy noises at him all day. Soon Max doesn't want to make pizzas or hang out with Suzi. Can Max find a way to make Brody be kind? Will Brody ever learn his lesson?



## Questions:

Read the author's note. Tell your students this book was written by an eleven year old girl. Could they do something amazing too?

1. Have you ever been extra excited to see one of your friends?
2. Have you ever learned something from someone else and found out that you have a passion for it? Is it easy to get excited about something when your teacher is excited about it too? Is there something you could teach others?
3. Max wants to write a book. This book was written by a kid as well, named Alyssa. Could you write a book? What would you want to write a book about?
4. How did Max feel when Brody and his friend made fun of him? How do you think Suzi felt? How do you think Max felt when he heard Brody make fun of Suzi and didn't help her?
5. How do you think Max felt when his cookbook was gone? When Brody teased him did that make it better or worse? What could Suzi have done to help Max?
6. How did Max feel when he got home? How did he feel when he got the letter from Sophia? Have you ever gotten a card? How does it feel when someone writes you a letter or makes you a card?
7. How does Max feel when Brody calls him a pig? How would you feel? How would you feel if another kids was "hunting" you and you had to hide? Is that a fun game for everyone who's playing?
8. How did Max feel when it was his turn to share? Why didn't he want to show off his cookbook? Would he have felt that way if Brody hadn't bullied him?
9. If your friend started hiding at lunch time and stopped spending time with you, what could you do to help them? What could you do to help someone who was being bullied? BRAINSTORM A LIST

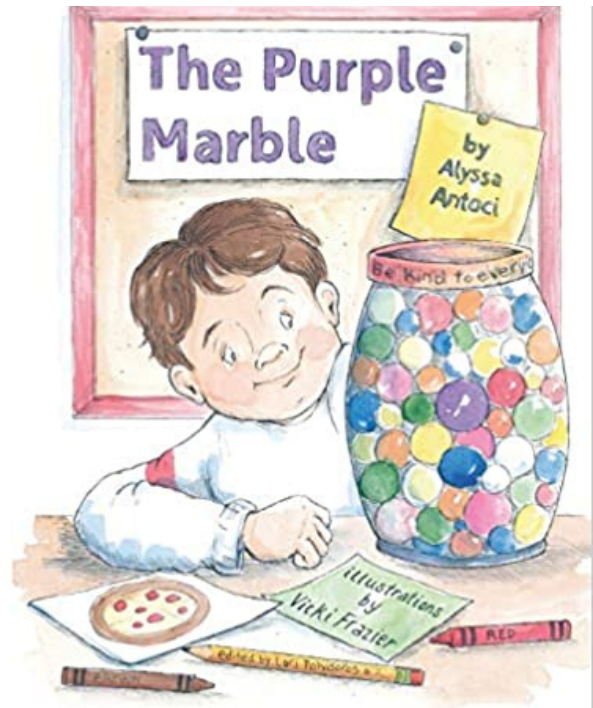


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## Questions:

10. Have you ever lied to a friend? How did you feel? How do you think it made them feel?
11. When you notice that someone is having a hard time and they don't want to talk about it, what can you do to help them?
12. Have you ever been having a hard time and seen someone else having a harder time? Can you help someone when you also need help?
13. Have you ever had someone tell you to do something "or else"? How does it feel?
14. Have you ever had a way to help solve someone's problem and been too shy or nervous or scared? Should you always do whatever you can to help others?
15. How do you think Max felt when he found out the other boy who was crying was Brody? Can even bullies get their feelings hurt? Do you think bullies are mean because being mean makes them happy? Or are they maybe being mean because they're hurting?
16. Was Max being kind to Brody right away after he saw Brody crying? What could he have done better? Did he get it right in the end?
17. How did Brody react to Max's kindness? Did he learn an important lesson?
18. When Brody told everyone to apologize, do you think they all owed Max an apology? Was it only Brody's fault?
19. Should Suzi have stood up for her friend? Should Brody's friends have stood up to him? Is it easy to stand up to your friends when they're doing something wrong? Should you do it anyway?
20. How do you think Max felt when everyone apologized? How about when Brody gave him back his cookbook? How do you think Brody felt when Max gave him a purple marble?
21. How do you think Max felt when he finally got to show off his pizza cookbook? Have you ever been excited to show something to all your friends?
22. How do you think Max and Brody feel now that they're friends? How do it feel to make new friends? Does everyone like making new friends?



Go through the character guide and discussion questions at the end to find out what each character learned. Discuss with the students. What did your students learn?