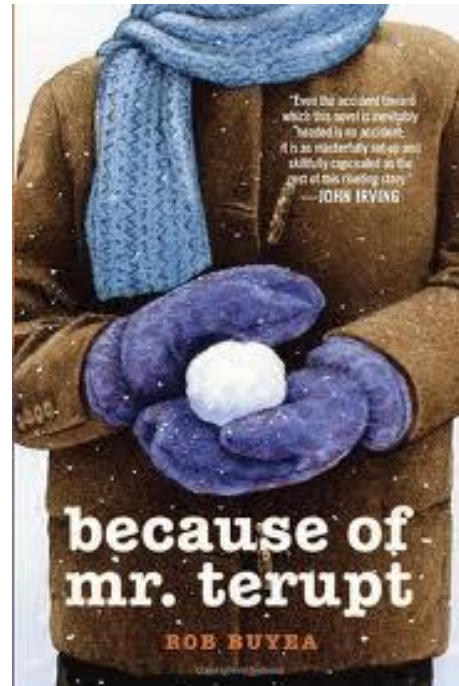


**Because of Mr. Terupt by Bob Buyea**  
(Random, 2010)

*For fifth graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut, their “rookie” teacher makes the classroom a fun place – even if he doesn’t let them get away with much – until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everyone and everything.*

**Discussion Questions**

1. Make a list of the main characters including Mr. Terupt – what word would you use to describe each character?
2. During the plant experiment when Anna starts crying that she doesn’t want her plant to die – how does Mr. Terupt handle this situation? During the grass experiment when Peter throws the cardboard and hits Alexia on her fanny – how does Mr. Terupt handle Peter? What does this tell you about Mr. Terupt? Do you think Mr. Terupt is a strict or lenient teacher?
3. P. 61 When the kids first go down to the Collaborative Classroom why is Jeffery so comfortable helping Joey?
4. Alexia classmates are aware that she is a bully and they are scared of her. When she is especially mean to the group doing the holiday project Mr. Terupt takes her aside and speaks strongly to her. “You are being mean and I don’t like mean people.” How did Alexia react to Mr. Terupt? Was she able to change?
5. Before Mr. Terupt speaks to Alexia he says to the group p. 82 “ If you let people get away with being mean, they’re going to keep being mean. You need to stick up for each other....you should stand by each other. That’s what being friends is all about.” Learn from this and don’t make the same mistake again. What was Mr. Terupt trying to tell the group?
6. Mr. Terup usually lets his student try to work out their own problems. Do you think Mr. Terup let the snowball fight go too long?
7. When Jessica, Danielle and Anna go to visit Mr. Terupt in the hospital they are initially frightened, but after seeing him lying there motionless with his eyes closed Jessica says that somehow she felt better. P. 169 “The power of Mr. Terupt even in his coma, made something huge transpire.” What do you think she meant by this.
8. After the accident the principal Mrs. Williams said it was no one’s fault? Peter stops talking after the accident – he obviously feels guilty for having thrown the iceball. Is he at fault?



9. Peter called the kids in the Collaborative Classroom retards, but it is ironic that it is James who gives him a hug and tells him it is not his fault. What does this allow the other kids in the classroom to do? Who else forgives Peter?

10. Did anything good come out of the accident?

11. In the book we see the same incident from different points of view. How did this help you to understand the characters?

12. Why is the book called *Because of Mr. Terupt*?

Caroline Ward, Coordinator Youth Services  
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