

# Instructional Overview

**Smile**  
By: Raina Telgemeier  
Grade Level: 5 / Guided Reading Level: T

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**Book Club**

**Instructional Focus:**  
Evaluating the Impact of Visual Elements

**Background:**  
A graphic novel is a book that tells a story with comic book, or cartoon-like, illustrations. Because graphic novels rely heavily on the illustrations to tell the story, authors use a variety of visual elements to convey tone and mood, influence perspective, and help the reader gain understanding of the story and theme. In order to deeply understand the story, readers must pay attention to the captions, fonts, facial expressions, and other clues found in each frame.

In *Smile*, author Raina Telgemeier uses visual elements to build a narrative from the perspective of her main character, Raina, allowing students to see the events of the story through her eyes.

**Instructional Overview:**

**Meeting #1**  
Introduction to Graphic Novels

**Meeting #2** (Chapters 1-2)  
Understanding the Story Using Visual Elements

**Meeting #3** (Chapters 3-4)  
Identifying Tone and Mood Using Visual Elements

**Meeting #4** (Chapters 5-6)  
Influencing Perspective Using Visual Elements

**Meeting #5** (Chapters 7-8)  
Reviewing the Impact of Visual Elements

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Instructional Focus



Description of the Instructional Focus



List of Materials and Preparation



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**Book Club**

**Materials and Preparation:**

- Determine which students will participate in the *Smile* Book Club (4-6 students)
- Gather copies of *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Calendar (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Expectations for Book Club (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Book Club Reading Response Board (1 per student)
- Prepare Reader's Notebooks (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Examining a Graphic Novel organizer (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Looking Closely at the Panel organizer (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Tone and Mood in a Graphic Novel organizer (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Thinking from Raina's Perspective organizer (1 per student)
- Prepare copies of the Graphic Novel Panel and Rubric Culminating Activity (1 per student)
- Gather sticky notes and chart paper (for use throughout Book Club)
- Optional: Prepare Vocabulary Resources (1 set per student)
- Optional: Prepare Student Self-Evaluation Forms (1 per student per meeting)
- Optional: Prepare Assessment Resources (1 set per student)

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