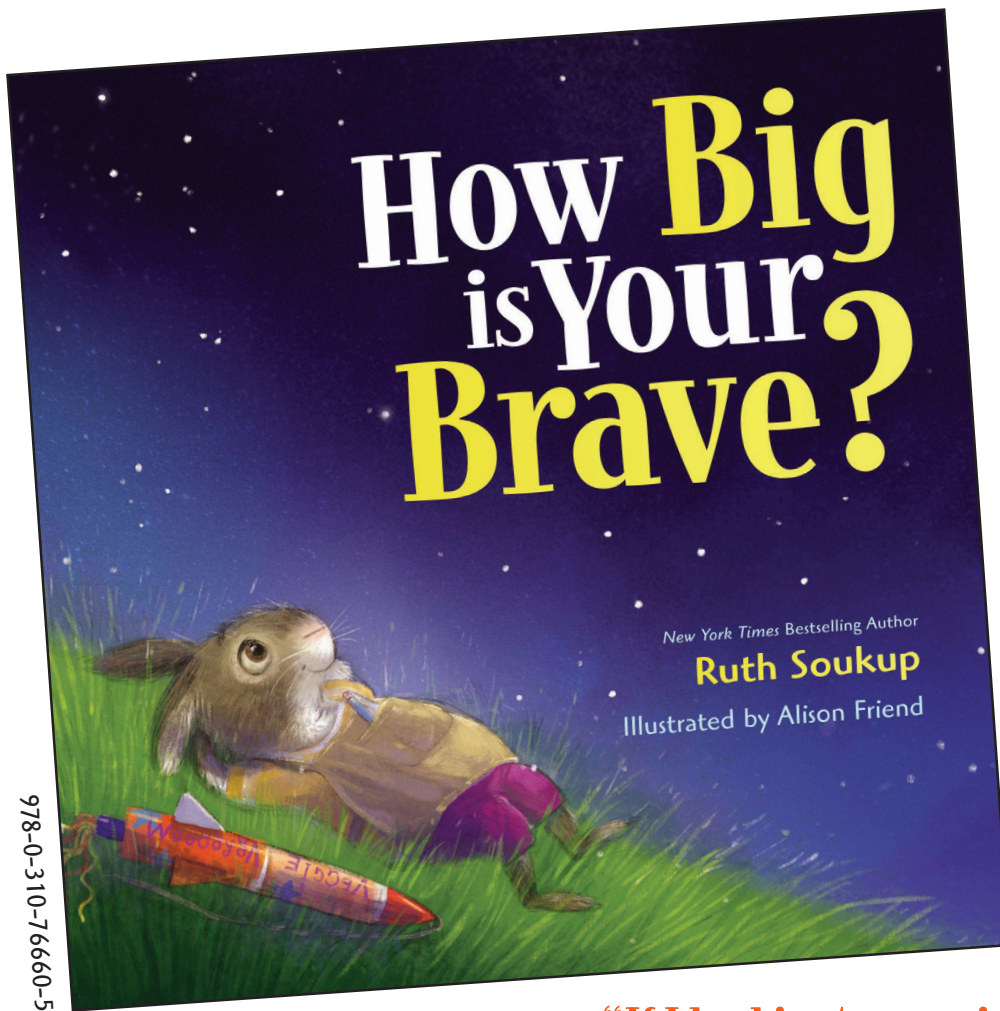


CURRICULUM GUIDE



How Big Is Your Brave?

BY

Ruth Soukup

ILLUSTRATED BY

Alison Friend

“If I had just one wish, it would be to hop in a rocket and blast off for outer space. VRRRRRROOOOOM!”

Zippy knows that attending Space Camp will help her reach her goal of becoming an astronaut one day, but she’s afraid. How can she compete with all those other kids? With the help of her family, Zippy learns that by being brave and taking action she can move past fear and disappointment to make her dreams come true.

New York Times bestselling author Ruth Soukup’s inspiring story will empower children to face their fears and overcome obstacles to follow their dreams and realize their goals.



The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.

Discussion Questions



Why do you think the author chose a nighttime setting for the beginning of the story where Gus and Zippy are discussing their dreams? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)



What sign did Zippy and Gus see when they went into town? How did Zippy first react to the idea of joining a camp? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)



Describe the relationship between Gus and Zippy. How do they treat one another? Find examples from the text that support your opinion of the connection between the brother and sister. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9](#)



Zippy is trembling with fear when she arrives at Space Camp. What action does she take when she sees the other kids working that helps her overcome her fear? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)



How does building a rocket at Space Camp help Zippy become more confident? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)



Zippy decides to extend her learning about space beyond her camp experience. Describe Zippy's extra efforts to learn about becoming an astronaut. Why is the idea of accountability an important part of her additional learning? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)



What happens to Zippy's rocket when she brings it home? How does she deal with the experience? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#)



How does Zippy incorporate the interests of her little brother, Gus, when she redesigns her rocket for the launch party? Why do you think it is important to Zippy to include Gus when making her new rocket? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.9](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.9](#)



The story ends as it began, with Zippy and Gus outside looking up at the stars. How is the last scene in the story different from and/or similar to the first scene in the story? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.5](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.5](#)



What important lessons do you think Zippy learns in this story? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2](#)

Activities



Words Inspire Action

Following your dreams can be scary and hard. Zippy and Gus consider many inspirational sayings as their story progresses. Make a poster highlighting one of the key phrases. Write the saying in large letters and add an illustration to represent the concept. Display your inspirational posters around your classroom. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7](#)

I Did It!

Think of a time when you faced a fear. How did you move through your fear to become brave? Write a descriptive piece about your experience. Include details about your feelings, the setting, and any other people who may have been a part of this event. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3](#)

How Big Are Our Braves?

Learning involves taking a risk and a bit of bravery. Showcase students' brave efforts to gain new knowledge. Keep a classroom chart to record acts of bravery that students in your class experience when they try something new.

Bravery Bios

There are many people who have become famous because they had to overcome a fear and find bravery to achieve their dreams—astronaut Sally Ride, civil rights activist Rosa Parks, Olympic athletes Jesse Owens and Wilma Rudolph, to name a few. Who else fits this description? Choose one person to research about his/her dreams, challenges, and brave accomplishments. Compile your research into an informative report about your selected person. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.K.2](#)



The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

NAME: _____

Using Context Clues



Read the following passages from the story. Use the other words in the sentences to help you define the underlined word in each selection.

Write a definition for each underlined word. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4](#)

1. After Space Camp, Zippy carried her rocket ship home to show Gus. He was busy setting up a juice stand to test out his latest concoctions.

CONCOCTIONS: _____

2. "Becoming an astronaut takes a lot of studying and hard work," she explained. "That's why we're forming the club. We're going to learn as much as we can together."

FORMING: _____

3. Zippy's whiskers trembled when she arrived for the first day of camp. She huddled next to her mom as the other campers ran about talking and playing.

HUDDLED: _____

4. She stood up and brushed the dirt from her paws. She'd made her decision. If she wanted to go to space, she had to learn everything she could. Scared or not, she belonged at Space Camp.

DECISION: _____

NAME: _____

A Picture Tells a Story



Find your favorite illustration in the story. Copy the illustration in the box. Use the details in the illustration to help you answer the questions below.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7

Who? _____

What? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

How/why? _____

NAME: _____

Words of Wisdom



Zippy encounters some challenges as she pursues her dream of learning all she can about space. Zippy is able to get through the difficult times by heeding inspirational words from her family. Connect each family motto with the action it inspires in Zippy.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

Family Mottos

YOUR WHY MUST BE
BIGGER THAN YOUR FEAR.

ACTION IS THE
ANTIDOTE TO FEAR.

EVERYONE NEEDS
ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE ONLY THING YOU
CAN CONTROL IS YOU.

Zippy's Actions

Zippy forms a club with her new friends at camp so they can help each other learn about space together.

Zippy decides to attend Space Camp even though she's worried that she can't compete with the big, smart-looking critters who sign up for camp.

Zippy doesn't give up when Gus accidentally breaks her rocket. She builds a new one.

Zippy bravely volunteers to help two campers make a model of the solar system.

Which motto is most helpful to you?

Write a sentence about how it inspires you!
